

Women and Motherloss
by
Martha A. Robbins, Th.D.

In Jeanne Stevenson Moessner, Ed., [*Though The Eyes of Women: Insights for Pastoral Care*](#) (MN: Augsburg Fortress, 1996).

Summary Description

Drawing upon my research on *Midlife Women and Death of Mother* (Peter Lang, 1990), this chapter provides insights into what daughters lose and mourn when their mothers die; the dimensions of grief that become exposed as women mourn the loss of their mothers; the unique ways in which women engage in the mourning process according to where they are in their own development. Furthermore, I examine some underlying assumptions pertaining to women's grief and mourning; women's development; and the importance of the mother-daughter relationship in the formation of and redefinitions of female identity and faith. I propose alternative ways of thinking about this experience, and then describe corporate and personal pastoral responses that may be helpful to women who experience motherloss in their adult years. The women quoted throughout the chapter (with author assigned names) have been participants in my research study, class seminars, workshops, and counseling sessions.

