



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF PHOENIX
Catholic Renewal Ministries

Prayer Ministry Guidelines

PRAYER MINISTER PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS

1. All prayer ministers are expected to be living a full sacramental lifestyle in good standing with the Catholic church according to their station in life.
2. All prayer ministers are expected to be of sound mental health and full sobriety to be able to function without any impairment as a prayer minister.
3. All prayer ministers shall have received training and have understanding of the prayer ministry guidelines from the Diocese of Phoenix, as a prayer minister.
4. All prayer ministers must abide by the Diocesan Safe Environment Training (SET) policy and must be current with their SET certificate.

PRAYER MINISTRY OBJECTIVES

1. To produce a safe, supportive and compassionate environment, in which Diocesan and Parish events participants can receive prayer for their needs.
2. To help participants directly experience the power of the Holy Spirit, the healing touch of Jesus and the love of the Father.
3. To be "active listeners," prayerfully engaged in the needs of the individual, while remaining non-directive and more "reflective" of what is being said by the participant.
4. To DIFFUSE any potentially harmful situations that may arise at any event held by the Diocese of Phoenix Catholic Renewal Ministries and its affiliated parishes.
5. To assist in helping people find a prayer group, inner healing, and/or Christian counseling resources in their geographic area.
6. Most importantly, to be present and loving!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

1. LOVE - Be loving and compassionate as Jesus would be.
2. HUMILITY - Have a humble heart and attitude as you minister.
3. NO SACRAMENTALS — Holy Water and Blessed Oil ARE NOT ALLOWED so that people will not confuse your prayers with the sacramental Anointing of the Sick.
4. NO PERSONAL LITERATURE — Please do not bring your own materials.
5. HYGIENE – Be aware of your breath/cologne/perfume.
6. LANGUAGE: This ministry is to pray with/for people. Do not use the term “praying OVER “ a person; use “pray WITH or pray FOR” a person. The term “Pray OVER” is reserved for clergies.

GUIDELINES FOR THE TIME OF PRAYER

1. Pray in pairs: Teams of two or three prayer ministers should pray together, ideally with a male and female ministering together if in a mixed-gender group setting. Teams with same-sex pairing only may be appropriate as well.
2. Always get the participant's permission before touching him/her. Ask, "Is it all right if we gently touch your shoulder as we pray?"
3. Touch the "SHOULDER ONLY" gently - Do not lay hands on the head (this is reserved for priests/deacons) or any other part of the body. Do not lay hands on bare skin - over clothing only.
4. NEVER massage or move the hand constantly.
5. Pray with your eyes open, although you may suggest that the participant close their eyes to minimize distractions. Encourage the participant that their only job is to be open and receptive, and it is your job to pray.
6. Be aware of the body language of the participant that could indicate discomfort, fear or resistance.
7. Special sensitivity and caution need to be exercised when praying for someone of the opposite sex.
8. Sense of Oppression - Silently exercise spiritual authority. However, this individual may benefit from the Unbound Ministry Healing and Deliverance Prayer Session at another time. (See Appendix C).
9. Responsibility - As representatives of the Charismatic Renewal, we don't want to alarm people in any way. Be respectful: Be sensitive to the person's dignity and integrity, and avoid intensity and awkwardness.
10. Keep it natural: Be yourself and keep things natural. You want to leave participants with a positive experience and a good impression. That includes your prayer team partners.

HELPING SOMEONE IN EMOTIONAL TRAUMA OR WITH MANIFESTATIONS

1. Call the Group Leader or Event Coordinator (or assigned/trained in deliverance ministry) to assess the situation. A couple of members of the prayer ministry leadership team should also be chosen to oversee prayer ministry services to keep order and deal with any problems that may arise. Then, if someone being prayed with is becoming a distraction, these overseers can intervene and take them to a private place.

PRAYER MINISTRY STEPS

1. Pray as a Team (Opening Prayer – Prayer for Protection - See Appendix A)
2. Prayer team members and participants are encouraged to be seated during the prayer session.
3. Invite the Holy Spirit as the prayer session begins.
4. Warm Greeting: Introduce yourself and ask the participants their names. Smile!
5. Ask what the participant is seeking from the Lord.
 - a) Use open- ended questions, determine what is being asked and what the person is seeking from the Lord
 - b) Example: What would you like Jesus to do for you today/tonight - Mark 10:51
 - c) How can we pray for you?
6. Listen to the participant – Allow time for a response.
 - a) Timing — Allow the participant to provide some details but not too lengthy (**neither** from the participant or the prayer team member).
 - b) Be present and observe.
7. Lead & Intercede - one person on the prayer team leads with the other interceding.
 - a) Encourage silence.
 - b) Encourage the participant to RECEIVE and be OPEN, your role is to PRAY, and the Holy Spirit HEALS.
 - c) Discernment – pray for discernment and use it with loving care.
 - d) Do not give advice/counsel. (We are not counselors – this is not a place for counseling. You may encourage them to go to Confessions, to forgive someone, and to avoid the occasions of sin or occult practices. Do not suggest names of doctors, lawyers, counselors, helpful herbal supplements, etc.
 - e) Avoid self-disclosure.
 - f) Provide reinforcement: Positive, encouraging, and edifying. (1 Cor 14)
 - i. Speak the Father's blessings (as taught in the Unbound prayer model)
 - ii. Speak positive spiritual affirmation to the person seeking prayer support.

- g) Praying in Tongues – Be sensitive that the participant may not be familiar with the Gift of Tongues (Watch your volume, no need to be heard). Ask permission if needed.
- h) Word of Knowledge/Word Gifts/Vision
 - i. Word gifts such as sharing a passage from Scripture, or a mental image/spiritual impression you are sensing in prayer. Avoid saying, “God told me...” Use: “I’m sensing..., I have an image of this.., does that resonate with you.” Form a prayer from the image or sense that has been confirmed.
 - ii. Avoid Prophecy - Prophecy is for the building of the Church/Body
 - iii. Be prudent and humble in sharing discerning of spirits and words of knowledge as you minister. Some words are only for the minister and not for the one being prayed for. Never share words about Birth, Death, or Vocations.

8. Quality Time - Pray with each participant 5-10 minutes, a bit more if many others are not waiting to be prayed with and/or you perceive the need. Please, no longer than 15 minutes.

9. Closing Prayers: "Glory be," "Hail Mary," "Our Father," "Oh, Lord we ask you to be with (Name) ... and we ask these things in Jesus holy name, Amen."

10. Refresh - Pause and pray together before the next person comes for ministry.

11. Closing Prayer – pray as a team. (Use the “Cleansing Prayer” - See Appendix B)

Appendix

- A. Opening Prayer (Prayer of Protection)
- B. Closing Prayer (Cleansing Prayer)
- C. Unbound Ministry Model (The Five Keys)

Appendix A. Opening Prayer (Prayer before ministry)

Prayer of Protection - prayer by Dr. Francis McNutt

In the name of Jesus and by the power of His cross and His Blood, we bind up the power of any evil spirits and command them not to block our prayers. We bind up the powers of earth, air, water, fire, the netherworld and the satanic forces of nature. We break any curses, hexes or spells sent against us and declare them null and void. We break the assignments of any spirits sent against us and send them to Jesus to deal with them as he will. Lord we ask you to bless our enemies by sending your Holy Spirit to lead them to repentance and conversion. Furthermore, we bind all interaction and communication in the world of evil spirits as it affects us and our ministry. We ask for the protection of the shed blood of Jesus Christ over our prayer team. Thank you, Lord, for your protection and send your angels, especially St. Michael the Archangel, to help us in the battle. We ask you to guide us in our prayers and share with us your Spirit's power and compassion, Amen.

Appendix B. Closing Prayer

Cleansing Prayer - Prayer by Dr. Francis McNutt

Prayer to be Set Free (Pray after ministry)

Lord Jesus, thank you for sharing with us your wonderful ministry of healing and deliverance. Thank you for the healings we have seen and experienced today. We realize that the sickness and evil we encounter is more than our humanity can bear, so cleanse us of any sadness, negativity or despair that we may have picked up. If our ministry has tempted us to anger, impatience or lust, cleanse us of those temptations and replace them with love, joy and peace. If any evil spirits have attached themselves to us or oppressed us in any way, we command you, spirits of earth air, water of the netherworld or of nature, to depart NOW and go straight to Jesus Christ for Him to deal with as He will.

Come Holy Spirit: renew us-fill us anew with Your power, Your life and Your joy. Strengthen us where we have felt weak and clothe us with Your light. Fill us with life. Lord Jesus, please send Your holy angels to minister to us and our families-guard us and protect us from all sickness, harm and accidents. Give us a safe trip home. We praise You now and forever. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and we ask these things in Jesus' Holy Name that He may be glorified. AMEN.

Appendix C. Unbound Ministry

A Model for Healing and Deliverance (The Five Keys)

Unbound Ministry Training is necessary to use this model

Key 1: Repentance and Faith

There is no greater deliverance than embracing the grace of baptism, by turning from sin and turning to the Lord. Jesus is our deliverer and He is our deliverance. The first key also involves ongoing repentance and conversion as the hidden sins of our heart are revealed.

Key 2: Forgiveness

If we want to be like Jesus we need to forgive from the heart. Many believers who know they need to forgive have failed to understand how to access the power of forgiveness that Jesus has given them. As forgiveness is pronounced by faith and the power behind unforgiveness is renounced, it is defeated.

Key 3: Renunciation

Renunciation is a declaration before the kingdom of darkness that I no longer make a home for sin, deception and the power behind it. I am no longer in agreement with this lie that has been buried in my heart and my thoughts. Specifically renouncing our enemies brings victory. For example, one might state, "I renounce fear in the name of Jesus, I renounce a spirit of rejection in the name of Jesus, I renounce lust...loneliness... a spirit of anger... resentment and bitterness... hatred. I renounce the lie that everything is my fault... I renounce the idol of fame and recognition..."

Key 4: Authority

When the Lord said to Moses, "I will be an enemy to your enemies" (Exodus 23:22), He did not mean that Moses would sit and watch. He meant that as Moses fought, so would God. Moses had God's authority. In Christ, we too have authority over our enemies who seek to destroy us. We can take our stand against them through repentance, forgiveness, renunciation and then declare the truth of their defeat by saying, "In the name of Jesus I command any (or every) spirit that I have renounced to leave me now."

Key 5: The Father's Blessing

The Hebrew sense of blessing means to speak words that empower someone to prosper and thrive. They are words that give life and peace. Words carry spiritual power. Every blessing that the Father spoke to Jesus is ours. The Father reveals to us who we are as we come before him in the Son. What we have longed to hear all of our lives has already been spoken. As we learn to receive His blessing, so we are healed. To be "unbound" means that the obstacles to the gift that has been waiting for us have been removed and the Father's love and affirmation is made real to us in Christ.