

Outreach and Introductory Presentations

Outreach

The Companioned Prayer™ learning sessions can be preceded by outreach to let people know about the prayer, opportunities to experience it, and opportunities for small group support and subsequent retreats. The most effective outreach is personal: personally inviting others and sharing your story and feelings about Companioned Prayer and about your Companioned Prayer ministry with them. You can do this individually with friends or acquaintances, and you can also do so in group settings.

It does little good to talk about the details of the prayer, its relationship to theology, or other esoteric characteristics of the prayer. Likewise, detailed handouts about the prayer are not useful. What is important is your testimony about the prayer experience, and how it has affected you. All questions should be invited, and answered as best you can.

It is important to always obtain the full support of your priest or minister before offering Companioned Prayer in their parish or community. Therefore, personal outreach should start with them.

Introductory Presentations

When presenting to a group, again the best approach is personal sharing of your experiences with Companioned Prayer and with your Companioned Prayer ministry, together with offering people an opportunity to experience some brief group prayers of inner grace. A sample outline of an hour-long introduction to the prayer, and its group prayers, are available on the CPCF's supplemental resources webpage. Also provided are sample flyers, reminder cards, and a signup sheet. If possible, have two people experienced with Companioned Prayer lead the introductory presentation and share their personal experiences. It is the combination of hearing your personal stories of Companioned Prayer and experiencing the quiet inner grace afforded by the group prayers, that will motivate people to want to experience Companioned Prayer.

The advantage of offering an introductory presentation in advance of the four learning sessions, is that you need not ask people to sign up or commit to four sessions until after they have had the introductory experience. Multiple introductory presentations at different times, venues, or interest groups can be made prior to a scheduled learning session series. Outreach announcements and media can focus on these introductory presentations rather than the learning sessions. However, attendance in an outreach presentation should not be a requirement to experience or learn the prayer.