



St. Paul Evangelization Institute

**Calling for Prayers**

[stpaulevangelization.com](http://stpaulevangelization.com)



# Opening Prayer



**SAINT PAUL**  
Evangelization Institute

# What do we do?

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**Our mission is to train, equip, and mobilize Catholics for the urgent work of evangelization.**

## **St. Paul Street Evangelization**

Local, parish, and school based individuals and teams that share their faith through direct and relational evangelization methods. We seek to demonstrate the kingdom of God through proclamation, prayer, and friendship.

[www.stpaulse.com](http://www.stpaulse.com)

## **St. Paul School of Evangelization**

We offer training through our online school, live workshops, parish missions, and a year-long on location school held in Catholic parishes. [www.evangelizationschool.com](http://www.evangelizationschool.com)

## **St. Paul Society of Evangelists**

A group of men dedicated to religious life with a charism of evangelization.

# Calling for Prayers

“So that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.” 1 Corinthians 12:25-26

Who is this training for?

- Diocesan / chancery staff who want to equip their local parishes to offer phone ministry.
- Parish staff and volunteers who want to mobilize teams to reach out to every parishioner by phone.
- Anyone who is interested in learning more about ministering to people by phone.

# Calling for Prayers



Maintaining inner peace in a time of fear:

- With the current pandemic: Stay informed, but do not oversaturate yourself with media. Lots of information being shared on social media is incorrect - we learn more each day.
- Instead, set up a daily schedule. Spend more time in prayer, reading your Bible, praying the Rosary, exercise, and doing things that give you peace. It's spring - it's time to start gardening!
- When and where possible, go to Confession, but know that God desires our salvation even when the Sacrament isn't available. He is fiercely jealous for you. God loves you.
- Take advantage of the [plenary indulgence](#).

# Calling for Prayers

## Goals in phone ministry:

- To connect to each family so each feels seen, heard, and loved.
- That each family has the opportunity to share spiritual needs or concerns.
- To pray with and give each person a spirit of hope and peace rooted in the truth of God instead of a spirit of fear and anxiety rooted in the lies of the devil.
- That each person knows that God cares about them and Jesus desires a personal relationship with them unto salvation.
- To move people towards a new or deeper conversion and spiritual life.
- That we can continue to foster community with those we call.

# Calling for Prayers

## Opportunities and Blessings:

- Phone outreach gives us the opportunity to make human connections, be charitable to our neighbor, and develop deeper friendships.
- It gives us the chance to identify needs in our parish and community and help keep our pastor and his staff informed without laying the entire burden on them alone.
- It helps us share the Gospel and become evangelizers. It helps people encounter Jesus Christ through prayer.
- You can do this! Prayer outreach by phone is possible. It takes a little practice. Don't be afraid of a bump or two in the road.

# Preparation

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Colossians 3:15

1. Determine how many families are in your parish and divide up into groups of 20-30.
2. Determine how many volunteers you will need
3. Reach out to ask for volunteers - A lead volunteer or staff person should create a list of volunteers and their contact information.
4. The leader should hold a training session with the volunteers. You can use and modify this presentation.
5. Share a sample script for calling including what to say if they reach voicemail.
6. Give volunteers a set time to finish their list (such as 3-5 days).
7. Let volunteers know what to do after calls are completed

# The Phone Conversation

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”

Philippians 4:6

## First Steps & Introductions:

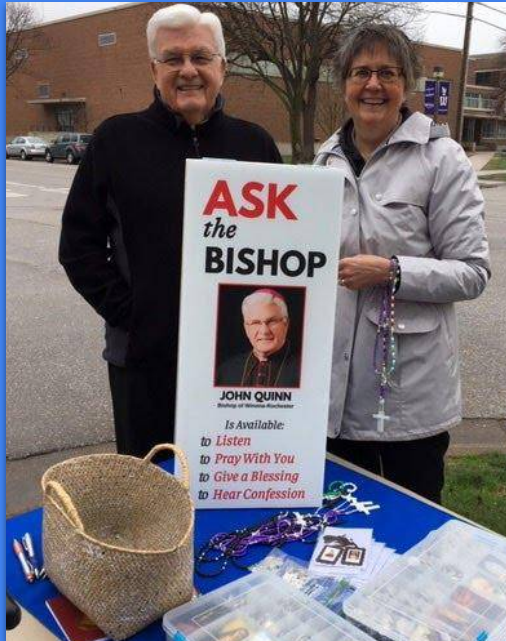
- Try as best you can to prepare for some basic answers to questions people might ask.
  - “Do you know when this will be over?”
  - “Is Father hearing confessions?”
  - “Is the Church open?”
  - “Can I go to adoration?”
  - “When can we go to Mass again?”
- It’s okay for volunteers to say “I don’t know”
  - Is Father doing anointing of the sick?
- Volunteers shouldn’t make guesses about the pandemic or share opinions that might scare people. (for example- don’t say -“I heard that 20% of the elderly who catch this will die.”)

# The Phone Conversation

## First Steps & Introductions:

- Volunteers should spread encouragement and hope. (“God has control and he desires to heal and bless us.”)
- Dial the number and announce yourself when they pick up the phone: “Hello, this is Brian Lee from St. Mary Church. We’re taking the time to call and check up on every parish family this week. Is this *Name*?”
- “Great, do you have a few minutes to talk?”
- Be prepared to have flexibility in your conversations.
- The conversation should be natural. It shouldn’t sound like you are following a script.

# The Phone Conversation



## The Conversation:

- Practice active listening in order to understand their needs in a time of crisis.
- *"Fr. (name of pastor) wants to let you know that he is praying for you and wants to know how you are doing given the current circumstances?"* Stop. Listen. Ask more questions.
- Spend a few minutes with small talk.
- Take notes for anything you find important.
  - Running out of food, medication, or other essentials.
  - Lost a job or is worried about paying bills.
  - Someone who has a loved one in the hospital. Any illnesses that might be new or ongoing.

# The Phone Conversation

## Scenario 1: Parishioner Answers

CALLER: "Hello, this is (Your Name) calling from (Your Church). Is this (parishioners name)?"

Response: "Hi! Yes, this is (he or she) ."

CALLER: " Great! Is this a good time? I am calling this afternoon/evening because Fr. (name of pastor) wants to let you know that he is praying for you and wants to know how you are doing given the current circumstances?"

Response: This will vary. Listen and take notes on anything important. (Ie. needs medication, financial crisis, or family illnesses)

CALLER: "We also want to keep you up to date with parish offerings over email. Is this email correct (state current email) I'd also like to leave you my name and number, so you can get back to me if any questions do come up. (Leave name and number) Would it be alright if I checked in with you again next week (or two weeks from now)?

# The Phone Conversation

## Scenario 2: Voicemail

CALLER: "Hello, this is (Your Name) calling from (Your Church). This message is for (Visitor's name). Fr. (name of pastor) wants to let you know that he is praying for you and wants to know how you are doing given the current circumstances.

I also want to see if you knew about the online services we are offering, as well as answer any questions that you may have about what we are doing as a Church." I'll go ahead and leave you my name and number. (Name and number) and you are welcome to call back anytime.

Thanks again, and have a blessed day."

# The Phone Conversation

## Scenario 3: Speaking with a Relative/Roommate

CALLER: "Hi, this is (Your Name) calling from (Your Church). Is this (parishioners name)?"

Response: "No, he/she is not available."

CALLER: I was just calling to see how they were doing given current circumstances and see if they had any needs or prayer intentions. Can I leave you my number so they can call back?

Response: "Yes, you may."

# The Phone Conversation

Moving forward:

- Do your best to make sure each person feels heard. If you feel that something is serious enough to warrant passing it on to the pastor or his staff, make a note of that (maybe a star to remind you for later).
- Document all calls before beginning a new one.

# The Phone Conversation



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## Calling for Prayers

Caller name \_\_\_\_\_

Creating a list of those you have called, any requests they may have, and identifying follow up actions would be helpful as you reach out to people on your call list. This template can be used (or modified) to help you keep track of your prayer ministry outreach. **Be sure to note if anyone needs contact from the Pastor or parish staff.**

Call Date	Name	Phone #	Email	Prayer need	Follow up action	Follow up date

# The Phone Conversation

## Phone Conversation Guidelines

- Communicate from your heart; be yourself.
- LISTEN - it is the most powerful communication tool!
- If the parishioner asks a question that you are unsure of, don't just make something up, or answer off the top of your head. Tell them you will find out the answer and get back to them.
- Do not counsel. This could lead to serious problems.
- Be aware of "church-bashing." Do not take part in negative conversation. This is not one of our goals and, furthermore, would prove to be counterproductive.

# The Phone Conversation

## Phone Conversation Guidelines Continued

- Be sure to spend time in prayer before making your calls. Expect to be a blessing and to be blessed.
- Document all calls before beginning a new one.
- Do not read the scripts. They are only structural outlines of what we foresee happening.
- Be led by the Holy Spirit.

# Basic Prayer Ministry

Let nothing disturb you, Let nothing frighten you, All things are passing away: God never changes. Patience obtains all things Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone suffices.

St. Teresa of Avila

Praying out loud:

- The next step is to offer to pray with the person on the phone and offer words of hope and encouragement.
- When you are ready to move the conversation on, say “Would it be ok if I prayed with you right now?” You can mention a specific prayer intention based on what they told you.
- This language is important. If you say “can we pray” you might put too much pressure on the other person.
- Let the person know that you are going to pray out loud for them, and that you want them to receive the graces from that prayer. You don’t want them to do the praying. Just receive.

# Basic Prayer Ministry



Praying out loud:

- Don't be afraid. It's easier than learning to toss a baseball back and forth.
- There's no "wrong way" and it's okay to fumble as you practice.
- Start by calling on the Holy Spirit: "Come Holy Spirit."
- One method is to use the Hail Mary: "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for *Person's Name*, and for *name their prayer intention* now and at the hour of their death. Amen."

# Basic Prayer Ministry

## A.C.T.S. Prayer Method

- Adoration: “Almighty God and Father, we give you glory, praise, and thanksgiving. All of our worship belongs to you. Please hear us in our time of prayer.”
- Contrition: “We are sorry for our sins, please forgive us.”
- Thanksgiving: “Thank you for the gift of our friend and family member, *Person’s name*. Please bless them.
- Supplication: “We pray for a swift end to this pandemic and we pray that *Person’s name* will be able to find a job soon to care for their family and pay their bills. Amen.”

# Basic Prayer Ministry

## Praying for healing for a particular intention

- You can use a prayer of intercession to pray for healing: “God we ask and beg you for your healing presence over *Person’s name* right now. Please heal and bless them. Especially heal them of *name the ailment* and protect them from the coronavirus.”
- If a person is actively sick or injured you can adjure or command the illness to be healed if you sense the Holy Spirit instructing you to do so. “In the name of Jesus I command any coronavirus in this person’s body to die right now.”

# Basic Prayer Ministry

Praying out loud:

- Keep your prayers brief. There's usually no need to pray out loud for more than 1-2 minutes. Sometimes less.
- Follow the Holy Spirit's lead.

# Basic Prayer Ministry

After prayer ministry:

- If you have a sense that you can share more of the Gospel, do so by sharing what God is doing in your own life. Your testimony is powerful reminder to people that they don't need to be afraid, but that they can trust in God.
- Just as important, each prayer minister should know how to invite parishioners to remain connected with the parish during this time.
- Have a list of resources ready to share with them, and even consider if your parish wants to email those as a follow-up.
- Finally, ask them if they have any other questions for you.

# Basic Prayer Ministry

- You can end the phone call by thanking them for their time, that they are welcome to call or email you, and that you will continue to pray for their family every day. You are now their prayer warrior.
- Finally, if the parish so desires, double check and make sure all of their contact information is correct.
- After you end the phone call, record any other notes.

# Closing



- In a moment we are going to take the time to pray out loud for all of you as you get ready to embark on this important ministry. We are going to pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, for divine appointments, and for many conversions to Jesus and healings.
- Before we do we have a couple of other resources to share with you:

## How can we offer this for free?

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**We are Partnering with Parishes:** We know that budgets are tight! We're honored to be able to serve alongside our parishes and dioceses in this time of crisis. Like your Catholic parish we depend on our partners and followers for recurring donations. We also make all of our outreach available at no cost.

**Partner with St. Paul Evangelization Institute:** If you are currently working or receiving an income please consider a gift of \$25 as an individual, or \$50 as a parish. If you have the means, please make this a monthly gift. And consider starting your own street team or prayer team with us.

### **Full Access to our Online School of Evangelization:**

- **Dozens of Courses:** On the Bible, Catechism, Evangelization, Prayer Ministry, Hospitality, Apologetics, and more. Expert teachers like Dr. Mary Healy, Dr. Ralph Martin, Dr. John Bergsma, Sr. Ann Shields, Peter Herbeck, and more.
- **Thousands of Resources:** 800+ free Catholic books in kindle format, dozens of downloadable tracts, evangelization team resources, Catholic audio, and more.
- **Live Parish Events:** Donation-based conferences, talks, parish missions, and youth events.
- **Onsite School of Evangelization:** New year long weekly school for Catholic parishes. No cost to the parish!
- **Evangelization Store:** Few items, higher quantities = lower costs. 100 Italian silver-plated medals for \$13 shipped.

### **During the Pandemic and Beyond:**

- Check out our book: "Ordinary Christians, Extraordinary Signs" for more information on prayer ministry.

[www.evangelizationschool.com](http://www.evangelizationschool.com)

# Ordinary Christians Extraordinary Signs



## Healing in Evangelization

STEVE DAWSON AND MARK J. HORNBACHER  
FOREWORD BY ARCHBISHOP ALLEN VIGNERON

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a few extra goodies!).

# Equipping Prayer



# Closing



Questions & Answers



St. Paul Evangelization Institute

**Calling for Prayers**

[stpaulevangelization.com](http://stpaulevangelization.com)