

Helping People in Times of Loss and Crisis



OurSundayVisitor
Offering Solutions Division

The Breathing Prayer



Breathe in God's Love...
Breathe out...



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Who are the people that
are hurting?



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Hurting People are ...

- Grieving a significant loss
- Going through a divorce
- Applying for an annulment
- Coping with serious illness
- Dealing with some life crisis



Why they fall through the cracks

- We don't know who they are.
- We don't want to interfere.
- We don't know what to say.
- We don't have time to deal with them.
- We give them bad information.
- We assume that everything will work out.



What happens when they fall through the cracks?



We lose them.





“Catholics have lost more people to other religions or to no religion than any other single religious group.”

■ Pew Forum Survey




How are we going to reach them?



Parish priests and staff members can't handle the increasing need for helping everyone who is hurting.




Companion Ministries can help



Train ordinary Catholics, who have gone through difficult situations, to offer spiritual support to others.






“God created mankind to be one family; when any of our brothers and sisters suffer, we are all affected... But let us thank God that in our suffering he never leaves us alone. There is always someone who can reach out and help us.”
Pope Francis



How Companion Ministries Work



One-to-one assistance:

Team members are assigned to a specific person. They might connect in person, on the phone, or via email.



Group support:

Team members interact with people who come to weekly or monthly meetings with a speaker & refreshments.



Success Stories



“Every authentic experience of truth and goodness seeks by its very nature to grow within us...As it expands, goodness takes root and develops. If we wish to lead a dignified and fulfilling life, we have to reach out to others and seek their good.”
Pope Francis



 **Questions Comments**



Submit questions to Lorie. Just type them in the Q&A box at the top of your screen and click "ask."




Helping People in Times of Loss and Crisis





Getting Started



Identify a specific need in your parish.
Talk to your pastor about the idea.
Set up a meeting with a few interested people.
Develop a plan to recruit companions.




Recruiting Team Members



Look for people who have gone through difficult situations and are willing to help others.



Training Team Members



Listening skills

Technical information

Making referrals

Praying with people



Their primary responsibility is spiritual support



Help them to see the wounded Christ in the person who is hurting.



The Holy Spirit Will Guide Them



“... the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.” Luke 12:12



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Being instruments of God's Love



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Publicizing the Ministries



- Bulletin Blurbs
- Websites
- Posters
- Prayer cards
- Referral cards
- Press releases
- Public Service Announcements
- E-mails



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Turning Parishioners into Inviters



- Encourage them to help family members & friends connect to a Companion ministry.
- Give them the words they need to invite.
- Make sure they have correct information.



Listening to the Holy Spirit



The Holy Spirit will lead your companions in directions they never imagined were possible.



Support and Affirm



Continue to offer spiritual guidance and training. Let people know that they are appreciated. Keep recruiting new companions.





**Companion Ministries help hurting people see
that they are not alone.
This is the beginning of spiritual healing.
It is a gift of grace from a loving God.**



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Questions Comments



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