



Continuing Education Program in Prayer Partnering Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary

What is a Prayer Partner?

A Prayer Partner is a companion or friend in Christ who accompanies persons on their journey of growing in the knowledge and love of God and in the desire to serve God's people. Prayer Partners already have some experience of daily prayer with Scripture and, as a result, have come to experience themselves as beloved children of God and intimate friends with Jesus Christ. As a result, they sense in themselves a call to help others to find Christ in their own lives in a similar way.

Program Goal

The goal of the Program in Prayer Partnering is to form participants in the foundational habits of a personal prayer life and to equip them with the skills needed to accompany others in cultivating these same habits. The Program seeks to prepare participants to serve as Prayer Partners - people ready to serve others in pastoral ministries where instruction in the early stages of a prayer life is central to the ministry's fruitfulness.

Prayer Partners would be especially of service in roles such as:

- leading small groups where fostering intimacy with Jesus is paramount
- meeting one-on-one with people as part of an overarching parish evangelization process
- continuing spiritual care of newly initiated Catholics after reception of their Sacraments of Initiation
- meeting with individuals or groups during a kerygmatic retreat

Program Design

- **Semester I** (Spring 2023): *Introduction to the Devout Life* by St. Francis de Sales and an introduction to Ignatian Spirituality. The classes meet one evening a week on alternating weeks for eight sessions per semester. Classes are three hours. The DeSales book will serve as the text for the first half of each class and an introduction to Ignatian spirituality will be covered in the second half.
- **Semesters II & III** (Fall 2023 & Spring 2024): The content of these sessions will be an "Ignatian Retreat in Daily Life" retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola. For more information: <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/what-is-19th-annotation-what-can-you-expect/>.
- **Semester IV** (Fall 2024): Returning to a classroom format, the focus will be on the practical aspects of accompanying others as a Prayer Partner including approaches to teaching prayer; styles of prayer; small group leadership; communication skills – active listening and responding; discipling; techniques of discernment; stages of spiritual growth; and ethics in ministry.

Pre-requisite:

Students interested in participating need to have completed the Institute for Christian Formation or an MA program in theological studies or equivalent. They will also be required to submit a letter of recommendation from their Pastor.

Launching in January 2023
\$250 per semester for four semesters

For more information or to enroll, contact the School of Theological Studies
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