

## WHAT IS PRAYER MINISTRY?

Jesus said, "**For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.**" (**Matthew 18:20**) Prayer Ministry is open to all who would like to gather with two prayer ministers to make their requests known to God.

The purpose of Prayer Ministry is to actively encourage and promote prayer within the life of the church. By being open and responsive to the working of the Holy Spirit, we pray that God's love, guidance and healing power would be released for the benefit of His people (building up the body of Christ) and for God's glory.

Each member of the Prayer Ministry Team:

- has discerned God's call to share their gifts in this ministry
- has been trained
- has been commissioned by Fr. Richards to offer prayer for individuals using the gifts of the Holy Spirit

## WHERE AND WHEN IS PRAYER MINISTRY AVAILABLE?

**St. Michael Catholic Church**, 11300 Frankfort Parkway NE, St. Michael, MN in the **Saints Apse**.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday** after the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday** after the 6:30 p.m. Mass

## WHAT DO I DO?

**Share:** Each prayer experience is limited to about ten minutes. You will be invited to share any specific requests you may have. "**Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.**" (**Philippians 4:6-7**)

**Receive:** In the remaining time, you can just focus on receiving all that God has for you. Sometimes God is doing something in you that requires silence, so don't be concerned if no words are spoken. Just receive in peace. Remember that our Father is gentle and merciful. He is the God of Joy, Encouragement, Hope and Love.

**Discern:** If words or images have been shared with you, follow St. Paul's guidance, "**Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good.**" (**1 Thessalonians 5:19-21**) It is wise to check out what we believe God may be saying to us. The words received in prayer ministry don't carry the same weight as Scripture, and need to be weighed carefully. God will not give you any words which contradict Sacred Scripture or the Apostolic Tradition. It may also be useful to share the message with other mature Christians for their reflection and discernment.

## WHAT DO THE PRAYER MINISTERS DO?

Prayer Ministers listen with both ears; one ear is focused on you and the other is focused on God's voice. Usually one leads the prayer as the other intercedes... sometimes silently, quietly or in tongues. "**For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to human beings but to God, for no one listens; he utters mysteries in spirit.**" (**1 Corinthians 14:2**). When we speak in tongues, we communicate at a level which is beyond our human capabilities.