



Meeting the Needs of the Parish Priest



For further information or pamphlets please contact your AFP Diocesan Representative or the Resources Representative for AFP Canada.
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Parish ministry covers a wide spectrum of activities and subjects. Being a Parish Priest is often a time-consuming and difficult responsibility and to do justice to the position, a priest needs support from a variety of places. It cannot be done alone.

Prayer is basic to being a Christian. The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (AFP) Canada can support a Parish Priest in many areas, some of which might not immediately come to mind when one mentions prayer. This pamphlet is intended to highlight some of the areas of parish ministry in which AFP has resources that a Parish Priest can use to enhance the spiritual life of the parish.

A primary area of parish ministry is to **encourage members of the parish to pray regularly**. AFP (Canada) has written and electronic resources in the form of pamphlets, booklets, books, handbooks, audio and video tapes, and prayer cards that can be used for corporate spiritual growth activities or provided to members of specific ministry groups. They could be made available as items in a parish library. Human resources, such as people to conduct or help in carrying out workshops, spiritual growth sessions and prayer events are also available.

Some specific areas in which AFP can provide written resources and suggestions/ideas/human resources are described in the following pages.



Things That A Parish Priest Might Want To Pursue

In order to take full advantage of what the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer can do in supporting the Parish Priest and the parish as a whole, one might want to consider pursuing some of the following things.

- ✠ Have your Parish become a member of AFP and receive regular AFP Newsletters.
- ✠ Contact and get to know your AFP Diocesan Representative.
- ✠ Appoint an AFP Parish Representative.
- ✠ Obtain information from your AFP Diocesan Representative or AFP Parish Representatives.
- ✠ Become a member of AFP (Canada) yourself.
- ✠ Visit the AFP(Canada) Website: www.anglicanprayer.org.
- ✠ Ask your Diocesan Representative to organize a prayer workshop in your parish in cooperation with your Parish Representative.

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Encouraging Members of Your Parish in Prayer

Written Resource(s)	Suggestions/Ideas/ Human Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ AFP's "Self Examination Using the Beatitudes" pamphlet. ✚ AFP's "Self Examination Using the Ten Commandments" pamphlet. ✚ AFP's "Beginning to Pray" pamphlet ✚ AFP's "Personal Prayer Handbook". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Ask your AFP Parish Representative or Diocesan Representative to organize a Prayer Workshop that encourages personal prayer.

Healing Prayer Team(s)

Written Resource(s)	Suggestions/Ideas/ Human Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ The Order of St. Luke has material and resources to assist in the encouragement and training of those who are part of a Parish Healing Team. ✚ AFP's "Healing Prayer" pamphlet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Ask your AFP Parish Representative or Diocesan Representative to arrange an information/training session for prospective Healing Team members.

Sunday School Leadership & Teaching

Written Resource(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ AFP's "Teaching Children to Pray" pamphlet. ✚ Piece by Piece—Prayer by Cathy Fairley, Burlington: Piece by Piece Resources. ✚ "Anglican Learning Centres—Prayer." by Patricia Bays Toronto: Anglican Book Centre.

Supporting and Encouraging Shut-ins

Resource(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ AFP's "Alongsiders" program that keeps the parish connected to shut-ins and mobilizes their prayer resources.

Parish Pastoral Care Team

Written Resource(s)	Suggestions/Ideas/ Human Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ AFP's "Pastoral Care & Prayer" pamphlet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Provide AFP's "Pastoral Care & Prayer" pamphlet to each member of the Parish Pastoral Care Team as an aid to preparing for a visit and/or praying with the person being visited.

Encouraging Special Lenten Devotions

Written Resource(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ AFP's "Keeping A Holy Lent" pamphlet. ✚ AFP's "When Ye Fast" pamphlet. ✚ AFP's "A Practical Guide to Fasting" pamphlet.

Arrange for Parish Spiritual Growth Events / Retreats / Missions

Written Resource(s)	Suggestions/Ideas/ Human Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ AFP's "Powerhouse of Prayer" workbook. ✚ AFP's "An Emmaus Walk" pamphlet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Ask your Diocesan Representative to organize, with your Parish Representative a parish workshop on prayer. ✚ Ask the AFP National Director to come to your Parish to lead an event, retreat or mission. ✚ Use AFP's "An Emmaus Walk" pamphlet as a resource for a walking meditation at a quiet day, retreat, Lenten exercise or as the conclusion to a study of the biblical story upon which it is based.

Support For Alpha Course

Written Resource(s)	Suggestions/Ideas/ Human Resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Your AFP Parish Representative or Diocesan Representative could give the Alpha talk on prayer, and/or act as discussion facilitator. ✚ Your AFP Parish Representative or Diocesan Representative could organize prayer support via ongoing Prayer Group prayers and/or special Prayer Vigil for the Alpha course before it starts.

Train & Organize Liturgical Intercessors and Readers

Written Resource(s)	Suggestions/Ideas/ Human Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ AFP's "Readers and Intercessors Handbook" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Using suggestions from AFP resources, ask your AFP Parish Representative, or other lay person, to coordinate the inclusion of parish concerns in the "Prayers of the People" in regular worship services. ✚ Give AFP's "Readers and Intercessors Handbook" to each Reader, and use it to inform and train Readers.

Personal Prayer Support for Parish Clergy

Written Resource(s)	Suggestions/Ideas/ Human Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ AFP's "Prayer For Your Spiritual Leader" pamphlet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Ask the AFP Parish Representative, or other lay person to organize a small group who would pray regularly for and with you, and to whom you could give prayer requests specific to you and your ministry.

Organize Parish Level Prayer Vigils

Written Resource(s)	Suggestions/Ideas/ Human Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ AFP's "How to Spend an Hour in Prayer" Vigil pamphlet. ✚ AFP's "How to Spend an Hour in Prayer" pamphlet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Ask your AFP Prayer Representative or other lay person to organize a Prayer Vigil for a specific event such as the annual parish Vestry.

Establish and Maintain Parish Prayer Chain

Written Resource(s)	Suggestions/Ideas/ Human Resources
✠ AFP's "Prayer Chains For Intercessory Prayer" pamphlet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✠ Ask your AFP Parish Representative or Diocesan Representative to arrange an information/training session for prospective Prayer Chain members. ✠ Appoint a lay person to coordinate the Prayer Chain's activities.

Establish and Maintain Parish House Groups

Written Resource(s)	Suggestions/Ideas/ Human Resources
✠ AFP's "Parish House Groups" pamphlet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✠ Ask your AFP Parish Representative or Diocesan Representative to arrange an information/training session for prospective Parish House Group members. ✠ Appoint a lay person to coordinate the Parish House Group activities.

Content For Parish Newsletters and/or Bulletins

Written Resource(s)	Suggestions/Ideas/ Human Resources
✠ AFP (Canada) Newsletters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✠ Ask your AFP Parish Representative to prepare item(s) for inclusion in the parish newsletter and/or bulletins. ✠ Include portions of AFP Newsletters in parish newsletters and/or bulletins.

Confirmation Preparation

Written Resource(s)	Suggestions/Ideas/ Human Resources
✠ "Anglican Learning Centres—Prayer" by Patricia Bays, Toronto: Anglican Book Centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✠ Your AFP Parish Representative or Diocesan Representative could arrange for a teaching session on prayer for the confirmation candidates as part of a preparation course. ✠ Your AFP Parish Representative could organize Prayer Partners from the parish to pray for each person who is to be Confirmed before and after the Confirmation.

Baptism Preparation

Written Resource(s)	Suggestions/Ideas/ Human Resources
✠ AFP's two "Family Prayer" booklets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✠ Your AFP Parish Representative or Diocesan Representative could arrange for a teaching session on prayer for the baptism candidates or their parents as part of a preparation course. ✠ Your AFP Parish Representative could organize Prayer Partners from the parish to pray for each person who is to be Baptized before and after the Baptism.