

SEAS Easter WITNESS Message GROW Guide

Week 6 (May 16 & 17) Practice the Art of Accompaniment

Prior to meeting as a group:

- Watch our weekly livestreamed Mass at 11:00am on YouTube either live or playback.
- Watch the Week 4 message series video on "WITNESS" from the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Website: www.seasp.org
- Read over the message for the corresponding week, found on the parish website: www.seasp.org.
- Supplemental Reading from *Everyday Witness*: Ch. 6 (pp. 69-87)

Opening Prayer: Read the following prayer together-

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. -Isaiah 43:1-2

We recall God's accompaniment of his people in this popular passage from the third book of Isaiah, which was written during a time when the Israelites were in exile and suffering under a foreign ruler. They needed to be reminded that God was with them and would accompany them during their time of crisis. Learning the art of accompaniment requires that we take our cue from the God who promises to be always with us, protecting and restoring us.

Group Discussion Questions-

As a group discuss the following from your weekly reading and reflection:

1. What from the message video and/or homily stood out to you this week and why?
2. The book talks about "5 Ways We Practice the Art of Accompaniment"- 1) Caring 2) Listening 3) Accepting 4) Practicing Patience and 5) Meeting people where they are. Which of these 5 is the easiest for you? The most difficult?
3. At St. Elizabeth's, one of our strategic anchors is "meeting people where they are". How have you experienced this at St. Elizabeth's? How have you helped us with this "strategic anchor" through your own authentic hospitality to others?
4. Who has accompanied you on your faith journey? How did they accompany you?
5. How have you creatively accompanied others during this pandemic?
6. What insights from the group can you take with you this week?

Growing the Art of Accompaniment

Ask: Pray for the grace to accompany a person on their journey to God.

Be Aware: Reflect on the ways you influence others in the faith.

Be Intentional: Invite someone to go to Mass with you or to another spiritual event.

Be an Everyday Witness: Accompany someone who is struggling by performing an act of kindness for them.

Closing Prayer: Read the following prayer together from "Everyday Witness":

Prayer to Practice the Art of Accompaniment

Companion God, as I walk down the journey of life, thank you for sending your son, Jesus, to accompany me. Just as he was present to the disciples of Emmaus and their eyes were opened, I know he is present on my journey with all its ups and downs. I know him most intimately in the Word and Sacrament. Thank you for the people you bring into my life to accompany me on my pilgrimage of faith-family, friends and strangers who walk with me as I grow in faith and in my desire to be an everyday witness to you, O Lord. Give me the generosity, confidence and gifts I need to accompany others on their journey toward a deeper relationship with you. I ask this through Jesus, my constant companion, and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.