



## Module 5: Prayers & Celebrations

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*“Is anyone among you suffering?” “Let him pray.”  
“The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is  
working.”  
James 5:13, 16*

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### Prayers

*“It is an amazing privilege to represent God in celebrations that bring love and respect to  
all creation”.  
Joe Dwyer*

There are four prayer categories:

1. Prepared prayers
2. Spontaneous prayers
3. Communal prayers
4. Private/Intercessory prayers

Many prayers prepared for various celebrations can be easily found on the internet. It is advisable to Google these to familiarize yourself with their content and format.

Although my feelings are mixed with respect to prepared prayers, in a later module I will be providing some prayers to offer an idea of how they are structured.

However, I firmly believe it is best never to recite a prayer word for word. Instead use the prepared prayer as a guideline when composing your own personal dialogue with God regardless of the event you are commemorating or celebrating. Every relationship is different, unique and special; therefore, every prayer must be an appropriate expression of your thoughts, feelings and distinctive style and should flow with the individuals and event you are celebrating.

There will be situations in which you may be called to pray for an animal in need. It's a singular time, and scripted prayer will not feel right or effective. In this moment, it is best to be inspired by your emotions and opt for a more spontaneous prayer. These are personal and can be fitted to the humans/animals and the occasion. I have two suggestions for this significant part of your service. First, I would recommend practicing some impromptu prayers, and more importantly, before the start I propose invoking the intervention of God for insight and assistance. During spontaneous prayer, it is best to focus on being yourself and on allowing your love and compassion to flow unobstructed. Never mix a prepared prayer while praying spontaneously. Be mindful that the focus is on your conversation with God who is always listening to you.

Private prayers are your time with God. During these invocations, you may ask Him for strength, direction and wisdom. I have found the best approach when faced with a challenge is to address God with an open mind and heart and listen for His direction.

During private prayer time, you may also consider offering intercessory prayers of intention for those who have made special requests and for the needs and healing of people and animals around the world.

When in a group either in a home, a hospital, a shelter or graveside, it is best to invoke those who have gathered to pray together for the animal who is sick, departed or abandoned. You can use a spontaneous free flowing prayer, but have some copies beforehand to give to the others.

## **Types of Celebrations/Commemorations:**

- Funerals/Memorials/Life Celebrations
- Burials/Graveside Blessings
- Blessing of the Animals
- Prayers for the Sick
- Prayers for grieving Pet Loss individuals
- Welcoming Ceremony (Adoption)
- Prayers at a Shelter

Although your ministry is not limited to these abovementioned events, it is likely your presence will be required to officiate at these various celebrations/commemorations.

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# Module 5: Assignments

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## Assignment Number 1: Prayer

You are attending a gathering of friends and one asks you to pray for her dog, Maxine who is scheduled to be spayed the next day. First say a spontaneous prayer for Maxine and afterwards make a note of the situation.

## Assignment Number 2: Celebrations

List any celebrations or commemorations not mentioned above. Discuss your related thoughts and how you would prepare for each service. In future modules, I will further develop the Presider's role in these celebrations and commemorations.

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**Congratulations!**  
**You have successfully completed Module 5.**

*Please take some time to celebrate this accomplishment and refresh yourself before moving on to Module 6.*