# **Prayer Ministry**What It Is and Is Not

#### It is...

An opportunity for youth to experience the presence of God and potentially their first exposure to the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is a form of vocal and intercessory prayer.

#### It is not...

Counseling or a substitute to professional help. Confession or a way to avoid seeing the priests available. Formal rites. Spiritual direction.

## **What to Expect**

Professionalism. Safe Environment trained leaders. No "weird" speaking in tongues over your teens or unnecessary contact. <u>Teens must be accompanied by one of their own Group Leaders or chaperones when coming to prayer ministry.</u>

## **How to Help Prepare Your Teens & Pray with Them This Weekend**

Do not be afraid to pray with your youth over the weekend. Prayer is as simple as listening and sharing what the Lord <u>MAY BE</u> saying to the person in front of you. If your teens are looking for prayer, pray. Prayer ministers are available, but we are not any more of the "experts" than yourselves and are simply listening to the Lord as well to help in the process.

### The Role of the Prayer Minister

Prayer ministers aim to be a calm, peaceful presence at the conference to serve and support the group leaders and chaperones by offering spiritual assistance through intercessory prayer for the youth.

#### "Worst Case Scenario" and How We Help

If your teen experiences a spiritual situation where we believe a priest should be involved, we will ask a group leader or chaperone to accompany their teen out of the venue and be within sight of the priest/prayer minister(s) as the situation is handled.

# **Steubenville of the Rockies Prayer Ministry Protocols**

Our protocol and order for the Archdiocese of Denver regarding touching and approaching youth in prayer ministry is that the prayer minister is not allowed to touch **any** part of their body. They will also not approach the youth to talk about a situation. We only listen to youth, when asked by them and accompanied by their chaperone. Prayer ministers are also trained to approach a chaperone or group leader during Adoration if something looks like a potential spiritual situation. They **will not** directly approach your teens.

Per archdiocesan guidelines it is also explained to each youth that we are mandatory reporters in the event something that is potentially harmful to themselves, or another is brought up during prayer ministry.

If you have further questions or want more resources, please contact us at <a href="mailto:steubenvillerockies@archden.org">steubenvillerockies@archden.org</a>.