

Thank you for attending the webinar for The Peace in the Storm Project!

As you consider introducing The Peace in the Storm Project, here are answers to some Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. I want to start a Group at my parish. What do I do next?

If you wish to start a Group at your parish, please contact Maureen Pratt for a free Starter Kit. The Starter Kit includes:

One print copy of *Peace in the Storm: Meditations on Chronic Pain and Illness*

One printed copy of the *Seven-Session Discussion Guide for Parishes* (a .pdf of the *Guide* or *Discussion Guide for Lent/Easter/Easter Season* will also be emailed to you and can be reproduced for Group participants at no charge)

One tri-fold brochure about The Peace in the Storm Project

A selection of “Bulletin Blurbs” that can be copied and used in parish bulletins or on social media to publicize the Group

Share the Kit with your pastor and determine when and where your Group may meet. Use the “Bulletin Blurbs” to announce the formation of the Group, and if possible, encourage parish leaders to read the announcements at Mass on Sundays leading up to the meetings. Work with your neighbors, too! In some areas, parishes have collaborated with other parishes (or entire deaneries) and have invited people to attend in one parish or have “rotated” the meetings between parishes.

Q. Where do I or others purchase the books? (UPDATED INFORMATION!)

Peace in the Storm: Meditations on Chronic Pain and Illness is available in print, ebook, and audiobook formats from Amazon and other online booksellers. The print version can be ordered by catholic church bookstores or shrine stores through Ingram Spark/Spring Arbor. Parishes that would like information about group discounts should contact the author (maureen@maureenpratt.com) or Galilee Road Publishing (www.galileeroadpublishing.com).

Q. What if I have more questions?

There are resources for you all along the way! Fr. David Roman, Pastor of St. Thomas Catholic Church, in Fairfield, CT, has offered to speak with any pastoral leader who has questions about how a Group functions. Maureen Pratt is also available to answer

questions and offer guidance on starting a Group. Workshops, retreats, or other events that supplement your Group's activities can be arranged for a nominal stipend. Contact Maureen for details.

Q. Can Groups meet online?

Yes! Many people might benefit from an online option that meets with the in-person Group, or a fully online option. Care should be taken to maintain the same degree of confidentiality within the online Group as with the in-person Group.

Q. What parish ministries or departments might help form and support a Group?

At least one priest or religious or lay ministry leader should commit to accompanying the Group and Group leader, being ready to answer questions or help resolve any issues that might arise. Ministries within a parish that might help form and support a Group include Respect for Life, Family Life, Adult Faith Formation, and Ministry to the Sick (or, Health Ministry).

Q. Who should lead a Group?

There is no degree or certification necessary to lead a Group. Essential talents include a desire to help conversation move among participants of the Group and to help others grow in faith, experience with chronic pain and/or illness, ability to "listen with the ears of the heart" (per St. Benedict), and compassion for and understanding of the journey people with chronic pain and/or illness make.

Q. What about caregivers?

Often, caregivers attend Group meetings with their loved ones. However, later in 2024, The Peace in the Storm Project will be offering resources for caregiver Groups, too! To find out more, send your contact information to Maureen Pratt and ask to be included on our newsletter.

If you have any other questions, contact Maureen Pratt at maureen@maureenpratt.com, or your parish or diocesan ministry leader.

Thank you – and may our Lord bless you abundantly!