



How to begin a House of Prayer or Chapter House
” **My house will be a house of prayer**” (Luke 19:46).

As we begin to grow as an order I would like each of our vowed monastics to move toward establishing a prayer cell, or also known as a House of Prayer.

1. Meet at least once a month (but the more the better) for Morning, Evening or Compline prayer.
2. Make sure that it is known that your meeting is open to the public.
3. Make sure there is a time during the prayers where everyone can pray for their concerns.
4. Read a Psalter selection for that day. Psalter Schedule available on ACB-ACNA.org/resources/
5. Read a portion of the Rule.
6. Offer some kind of hospitality, i.e. coffee and dessert, or a light simple meal like soup.
7. As a monastic you should wear your cross.
8. If you are a priest you may offer Holy Communion.
9. Make a monthly email report to your Abbot about the meeting and attendance.

Tips on How to Begin to Build a House of Prayer

Just as a builder needs to have plans to build a house, you also need to have plans to build a House of Prayer. The builder gets his plan from the architect; we get our plans from the our Lord, the one who created the heavens and the earth. God has the perfect plan already in mind for your House. Here are some tips to get you started:

1. Start to pray for those who you might invite. Allow God to lead you to those folks in your life.
2. Pray that the Holy Spirit would ignite a desire for a deeper life for prayer in their life.
3. Allow God to lead.
4. Dialogue with your pastor; He is the spiritual overseers of the church.
5. Let your rector know that you are forming a chapter house that will focus on spiritual support of his ministry and the ministry of the parish
6. Plan as you go. Don't develop a grandiose plan. Keep your plans humble and allow God to lead your House to grow.
7. Pray and do not gossip.
8. Engage the whole congregation as much as possible to join you. This is to be a House of Prayer for all people, not just for a few prayer fanatics. Find ways to bring all the people of your church with you on this journey—young and old, male and female, long-timers and newcomers. It's the people that become the House of Prayer, not the church facility.
9. Pray for specific people in your church by name.
10. Do not be afraid of silence.