

## SEAS Easter WITNESS Message Virtual GROW Guide Week 7 (May 23 & 24) Engage in God-Talk

### **Prior to meeting as a group:**

- Watch our weekly livestreamed Mass at 11:00am on YouTube either live or playback.
- Watch the Week 7 message series video on "WITNESS" from the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Website: [www.seasp.org](http://www.seasp.org)
- Read over the message for the corresponding week, found on the parish website: [www.seasp.org](http://www.seasp.org).
- Supplemental Reading from *Everyday Witness*: Ch. 7 (pp. 89-112)

### **Opening Prayer:** Read the following prayer together-

*Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore. From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised. -Psalm 113:2-3*

*Like the psalmist in the above opening prayer, we should bless and praise the Lord every day-from sunrise to sunset. We bless God's name by giving thanks, acknowledging God's presence, and treating God's name as holy. I believe God's name is blessed when we bring God into our everyday-when we engage in spiritual conversation or God-talk. (p. 90)*

### **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. On p. 91 in "Everyday Witness" there are several reasons cited for why Americans shy away from discussions about God or faith:
  - These types of conversations create tension or arguments.
  - Others may feel put off by how religion has been politicized.
  - Don't want to appear religious.
  - Don't want to sound weird.
  - Don't want to seem like an extremist.

Are any of these reasons for you? If not, are there others?

3. Do you know someone who talks about spiritual things openly? How can you learn from them?
4. From the book pp. 92-94 in "Everyday Witness" the author goes over the "dos and don'ts" for God-talk:
  - Do try to use virtue words in your everyday conversations-words such as love, forgiveness, gratitude and kindness.
  - Do talk about what your faith means to you.

- Do share what you're grateful for.
- Do share about the power of prayer.
- Do offer prayers for someone in need.
- Do tell people why you go to church and why it is important to you.
- Do comment on how you experience God in a beautiful sunrise or in other natural events.
- Don't tell people what they should do and believe.
- Don't speak in a pious, superior tone when talking about things of God.
- Don't start with doctrine unless someone initiates that with a question.
- Don't tell someone to go to church; instead tell them why you go.
- Do share how hearing God's word and receiving the Eucharist in community enriches your life.

Which of the above listed challenge or excite you? Do you have any additions to this list?

5. Reflect on the last spiritual conversation you had with someone. Share your biggest "take away" from that conversation with the group.
6. Has the Coronavirus and "social distancing" made it easier or harder for you to engage in God talk? Why or why not?
7. What insights from the group can you take with you this week?

### **Growing the Habit of God-Talk**

Ask: Pray for the grace to engage in God-talk in a natural and unobtrusive way.

Be Aware: Notice when others talk about spiritual things and note it. What words do they use? How did the conversation start? Who initiated it?

Be Intentional: Review the dos and don'ts of God-talk.

Be an Everyday Witness: Talk with someone about something you are grateful for or share with someone a message you heard during the homily or something you read that was helpful to you.

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

### **Prayer to Engage in God-Talk**

All-holy God, you are the one and true God. Help me to love you with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all my strength. Keep these words in my heart today and every day. Give me the grace to engage in God-talk, with my family, with the children in my life, and with all who need your message of love. I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives in union with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.