



## **First and Second Contact Protocols for Healing and Deliverance**

### ***STEP ONE: INITIAL CONTACT- DECISION AND COMMITMENT***

a. When a person believes himself or herself to be suffering from an extraordinary attack of the devil and thus seeks relief from the torments, he/she should normally contact his/her parish priest. The priest should attempt to gather basic information about the person's experience and counsel the person to determine whether a conversion to a more devout life of prayer and sacraments, especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation, will alleviate the problem. Besides attending Mass and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the person should choose prayers or devotions to recite every day for approximately one month. A life of virtue should also be encouraged. This initial contact is about orienting one's life to the ordinary means of sanctification: prayer, sacraments, and virtue. It is about establishing discipline and obedience. This is prayer with a purpose, not from despair. If the caller continues to suffer after these practices for a period of three weeks, he/she should call his/her parish priest for further consultation.

b. If the attack involves a suspected demonic infestation of a home or place, a priest should bless the house using exorcised salt, Holy Water, and prayers from the revised *Book of Blessings* or *Manual of Minor Exorcisms*. A deacon may bless homes using the revised *Book of Blessings*. The *Manual of Minor Exorcisms* may not be used by deacons.

The house or place may also be blessed by a priest using the prayers written by Pope Leo XIII and with permission from the Bishop; however, these prayers may not be used by deacons or laypersons.

***STEP TWO: SECOND CONTACT- MOVEMENT AND DELIVERANCE PRAYER***

a. If after approximately three weeks of attempting the ordinary means of sanctification specified in the Pastoral Plan of Action, and the petitioner still labors under what he/she believes is torment from evil spirits, the priest can explore with the petitioner any barriers to grace. A significant barrier to grace is unforgiveness. The majority of barriers to grace are related to behavioral issues. The petitioner should exhibit evidence that he/she is committed to reordering his/her life.

Obedience and discipline are important at this stage. The priest should offer to meet and pray with the petitioner. If, upon meeting with the petitioner, and in the opinion of the parish priest, the situation involves evidence of extraordinary demonic activity beyond his comfort or capability, the case should be referred to the Chancellor for Canonical Affairs as to what course of action to take. If the priest believes referral to the Chancellor for Canonical Affairs is not necessary, then the petitioner should be encouraged to participate in community prayer, adoration, Bible study, etc. for another three weeks. The parish priest can also call the Chancellor for Canonical Affairs for counsel.