

AWAKEN US TO THE SACRED

Objective:

To discover the loving presence of God in every aspect of daily life by ritualizing these events in a celebration utilizing a central theme illustrating our experiences through the use of a symbol from which flows prayer, music and faith sharing within the context of community worship.

Workshop Overview:

“Awaken Us to the Sacred” program is a 45-90 minute workshop led by Christian workshop leader, writer, choir director, singer and songwriter, Sam Kauffman, a roster artist with NEAG Music. Sam utilizes the music, poetry, stories and programs she has written in this workshop as illustrations.

Sometimes we only see God in Sunday worship. When we leave the church, we leave God safely locked up within the walls of the church building. This exciting workshop shows catechists how to look for experiences of God everywhere and every day sharing these experiences with their students by designing simple “rituals” for use in their weekly classes for children and youth.

By understanding the basic elements of ritual, catechists learn straightforward, simple techniques to use in creating worship experiences honoring and deepening our relationship with God. This workshop is a simple guide to meeting God and experiencing the divine in our lives.

Workshop Outline:

Part One:

Introduction to Ritual

Encountering the Divine

Putting Words and Music to Experience

The Big Picture

Setting Goals - A Basic “Recipe”

Deciding What Experience or Event to Ritualize

Theme

Who Is Your “Audience?”

Common Experiences

Who Is Your Audience?

The Physical Setting

Resources

“Audience” Participation

Part Two:

Basic Elements of Ritual – Weaving Together the Elements

What Is the Climate and Tone of the Ritual?

Fundamental Parts of a Ritual

Putting Together the Puzzle Pieces

Central Symbol or Theme

Music Selection

Scripture

Stories

Poetry

Movement

Meditation

Prayer

Large or Small Group Sharing

Openings and Closings

Assigning Parts

Leadership Roles

Things to Consider

Inviting Students Into the Process

Review

Where Will God Show Up?

How Will the Ritual Help Participants See

God?

Part Three:

Recipe for Ritual – Designing a Simple Ritual

Workshop participants break up into small groups to design a simple classroom ritual then share with the larger group the result of their work.

Workshop Synopsis – Awaken Us to the Sacred

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Second Workshop – Praying the Psalms with Children

The Book of Psalms is one of the most loved books of the Bible. What we often miss is the fact that each Psalm is a living prayer. Through the Psalms, children can learn to see God in a new light and catechists can enhance the prayer life in their classrooms by praying the Psalms. Through this workshop catechists for children and youth learn easily applied ways to use the Psalms in prayer. Some of the techniques to be discussed will be prayer pathways, music and **simple** instruments.

Relevant Education

Study of Liturgy – St. Patrick’s Seminary, Jesuit Theological Union

Choir Director – St. Luke’s Catholic Church 20+years, Foster City, CA; Divine Redeemer Catholic Church, Colorado Springs, CO

Liturgy Committee Member – St. Luke’s

Scripture Study of the Psalms 1992-2002

A Servant’s Heart International Ministry and Music – 10 years

Roster Artist - NEAG