

Spirituality of the Cross

Facilitator's Guide

Half-day morning session

- ❖ Introduction- These are the points to make:
 1. It was a goal of the XX General Assembly to provide an ongoing formation opportunity for the members and associates to be articulate in the language of our spirituality. Today we are going to develop our understanding of the symbol of the Cross and we will explore ways to articulate and share our spirituality with others.
 2. We want our time to be a prayerful sharing of our spirituality. (You can share the schedule of the session with everyone.) Note- The session outline that we sent can be modified to your particular setting.
 3. It may be a half or a full day session, as determined by the leadership team of the unit. The Morning session is to facilitate sharing on a personal level. The Afternoon session is to think about how we can integrate an articulation of our spirituality into our preaching.
- ❖ You will need to prepare copies of the Morning Prayer. Use the Morning Prayer for the Exaltation of the Cross (September 14) with Reading: Philippians 2:6-11 (*obediently accepted death, even death on a cross*). For the intercessions use the Seven Offerings.
 - [If the half-day session is in the afternoon, then start with the introduction and end with Evening Prayer; making the same substitutions.]
- ❖ Bring the Scripture reading with you and ask for a volunteer to do the reading.
- ❖ Read aloud the Reflection offered by Fr. Joe Nassal, C.P.P.S.
- ❖ Introduce a time of personal reflection and determine the time available for this reflection. Share the two reflection questions and tell the participants that when we come back together we will share our reflections in the group. This gives us an opportunity to learn from others and gives everyone a chance to articulate our spirituality.
- ❖ For the sharing in group, if space permits have the group sit in a circle so that they can make eye contact. Introduce each question and invite the sharing. No note taking or reporting is necessary.

If you are leading a full day session, then in the morning do as described above.

Afternoon Session- Group work

- ❖ Describe the activity: We will continue to reflect on the spirituality of the cross. We will use a familiar Gospel passage and share in an exercise of homily preparation for preaching on Good Friday.

- ❖ Bring the Scripture - Mark 9:34-38 (Doctrine of the Cross) and invite a volunteer to read it.
- ❖ Introduce the time for private reflection
 - In one sentence tell us: What is the good news found in this passage?
 - In one sentence tell us: What is the challenge found in this passage?
 - How can my preaching on this passage reflect Precious Blood Spirituality?
- ❖ Share together in one group or small groups-
 - In your parish or ministerial setting, how would you, from the perspective of Precious Blood spirituality, preach about the cross and the Precious Blood during a Good Friday service.
- ❖ Prepare and bring copies of Evening Prayer. Use the Evening Prayer for September 14 or celebrate the Mass of the Exaltation of the Cross.