Chicago Days 2015

Presentation- “Fortifying Catholic Identity Through Spirituality”

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Outline of Presentation:

1. We all have a spiritual story to tell
2. Catechesis as a process
3. Jesus is the core of our efforts
4. Spirituality is our hunger for God
5. Spiritual conversion is cyclical
6. We need community for spiritualgrowth
7. Five Paths to Spirituality

3. Taylor Swift Game http://stumingames.com/2013/11/lamentations-or-taylor-swift-lyric-ppt-game-from-downloadym/

Sacred Ground Activity-

Sacred Ground (20-30 min)—As we enter into this conversation about Spirituality fortifying out Catholic Identity in our school. Anytime we talk about spirituality we are entering Sacred Ground…. (purchase Dixie cups… and potting soil).

We all have a spirituality that is unique to us. This spirituality has been shaped by our past history, our experiences, the people that have formed us. It is helpful if we name this spiritual experience and that we are conscious of where we came from. Our spiritual history.

We are going to work in groups. 6 to 8 people per group. Once you have formed your group have them come up and pick up a Dixie cup of sacred soil. Place it in the center of the group.

I will put some possible questions on the screen that you can respond to… Hold the cup filled with this sacred soil and answer as many of the questions you feel confortable with. When done return the soil to the center of the group.

Questions-

1. What is your first religious experience memory?

2. What is the name your mom called you—when she was not mad at you—home name…..that wasn’t used outside the house.

3. Who are the key spiritual people in our life?

4. What is your biggest obstacle to your spiritual life?

5. What is the metaphor/sign/symbol that helps you understand God? What is your definition of God?

Concluding Prayer to Sacred Ground--- Everyone get a pinch of soil. Hold it close to your hear. Either listen to this song or prayer.

What is Catechesis?

**Head, Heart and Hands**--- Unstructured it. Emphasize the heart.

What is Jesus? Key to the center…. But it is an emptying out of ourselves for others. Jesus is true compassion---kindred to the other---walk in their shoes.

https://vimeo.com/22439234

What is spirituality then? It is a process of searching for God. But more importantly it is a process of realizing that we matter to God.

Mark 2:1-2

Spirituality is a journey of conversion. Our lives should be ever growing and changing ---deepening our lives in Christ.

Spiritual Conversation is a cycle as Tom Zanzig once put it. A process of searching.

Hunger—Search—Awakening—Response

<http://www.tomzanzig.com/Site/Handouts.html>

Spiritual but not religious is a myth and wake up call-

Five Paths to Spiritual catechesis

Incarnation

Prayer

Eucharist

Service

Cookie Monster Video- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=giWqEPNLtBo>

Summary- Closing prayer

1. We all have a spiritual story to tell
2. Catechesis is a process
3. Jesus is the core of our efforts
4. Spirituality is our hunger for God
5. Spiritual conversion is cyclical
6. We need community for spiritual growth
7. Five Paths to Spirituality
8. Incarnation, Prayer
9. Retreats and Service
10. Taylor Swift could have written the Bible?