

The Role of the Prayer Leader

Call to Celebrate is based on a process of liturgical catechesis. It has a solid historical tradition in our Church, since liturgy has long been regarded as the Church's "school of faith," an expression that recognizes the formative value of ritual celebration on participants. A significant part of your role as catechist is as leader of prayer.

Leading Prayer

During the celebration, you are the leader of prayer. The way you preside is important. Here are some tips:

- Learn the script and review any Scripture passages ahead of time. Be familiar with these so that you are able to lead and be present with the children without distractions.
- Use your body to communicate, being aware of body language, gestures, and facial expressions.
- Watch your timing. Appropriate silence during prayer leads children to deeper prayer and reflection. Take time with each child during the ritual actions.

The Celebration

Each of the celebrations is built around a procession, a song, a Scripture reading, and a ritual action. Take the time to carry out the celebration reverently and to involve the children as much as possible. The Songs of Celebration CD will be a helpful resource. If you find that having children use the Child's Book during the celebration is distracting, complete the celebration without books and guide the children's responses.

The Prayer Space

It is very important for you to prepare the prayer space ahead of time and to lead the celebration in a way that will call children to prayer, participation in the ritual action, and reflection after the celebration. Ensure ease of movement in the prayer space and that children can see and hear everything that is happening. This will allow them to participate in processions and rituals with ease and reverence. Decorate the space with plants or flowers. Always have a bowl of holy water, a Bible and stand, and a candle available. Check your planning page each week to be sure that you have everything you need for the celebration.

