



Prayer through Art

This activity invites the young people to creatively redesign old, familiar prayers in the style of contemporary teenage art. It provides a colourful and creative backdrop for walls in classrooms, parish centres and youth rooms.

Preparation

On a sheet of poster paper write the words of a traditional prayer, such as the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary, The Magnificat or the Glory be to the Father (depending on the size of the group, more than one prayer can be used).

1. Invite the group to recite the prayer together. Remind them that prayer is a whole hearted faith response to God that requires us to be aware and attentive. Ask the young people to re read the prayer, paying attention to each word and phrase.
2. Assign to each person a word or phrase of the prayer. If the group is small, individuals can be assigned an entire line.

Distribute coloured markers, pencils and paper. Tell the group to use the coloured markers to write their word, phrase or line in large font across the page. Invite the group to reflect on the word, phrase or line they have been given. The following questions may be helpful to them:

How could the word or phrase be defined in a dictionary?

Could other words be used to say the same thing?

What symbols or images come to mind when you read your part of this prayer?

How would you decorate this word or phrase to make it come to life?

3. Invite the young people to make the words of their prayer come alive, using markers to illustrate the page with images and symbols.
4. Remind the group that this is a prayerful activity – play reflective music and/or light a candle to set the tone. Allow 10-15 minutes for this activity.
5. Collect the pages and display them in sequence on the wall. Give the young people a chance to reflect on each of the displays. Invite them to share any reflections.
6. Conclude by noting how each person's ideas and creativity makes prayer richer and more meaningful.