



Religious Education Congress 2017
Dr. Mary Amore
Rituals, Symbols and Prayer Services
Session 5-03

Rituals, Symbols and Prayer Services

By

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Part One: Rituals

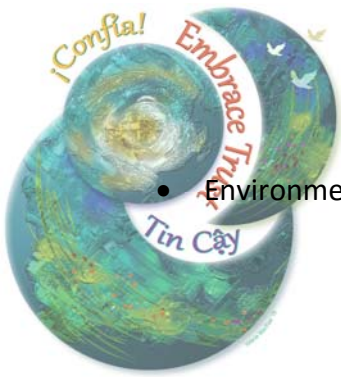
- Blessings
- Anointing
- Signing of senses
- Laying on of hands
- Candle lighting
- Breaking bread
- Sharing the cup
- Presentation of symbols

Part Two: Symbols

- Water
- Oil
- Sacred Scripture/bible
- Cross/crucifix
- Wheat/bread
- Grapes/wine
- Candles
- Seeds
- Coins
- Rocks
- Sand
- Holy Statue

Part Three: Creating a Sacred Prayer Space

- Fabric should reflect Liturgical Year
 - White/Gold
 - Purple
 - Red



- o Green
- Environment can also reflect seasonal images
 - o Fall/Autumn
 - o Winter
 - o Springtime

Part Four: Steps to Creating a Prayer Service

- Select **focus** for your prayer service
- Choose a **scripture passage** which reflects this theme
- Select a **symbol** which represents your chosen scripture passage, and discuss how this symbol will be experienced by participants (**ritual movement**)
- Select **music** which supports overall theme of prayer service
 - o Pre-recorded music
 - o Live music
 - o Singing
 - o Worship aid
- Write or select supporting **prayer texts/poetry/meditation**
- Build in time for **silent reflection**
- Build your **sacred space** around the symbol and scripture
 - o Arrangement of chairs
 - o Placement of Ambo
 - o Chair for leader of prayer
 - o Lighting
 - o Focal point of prayer space
 - o Table for symbols/cloth
 - o Items needed for assembly's participation in ritual movement