

Sample Parish Missions and Retreats

Shannon & Cerneka Orin Johnson



FAITH AS A JOURNEY: HELPING ONE ANOTHER ALONG "THE WAY"

We often find that the faithful lack a theological language to talk about their relationship with God or their faith journey. This presentation would help all God's people (or those who work with them) discover new and relatable ways to speak about these aspects of faith. We explore all this by using everyday street signs to speak of faith, and process a short slideshow about Jesus's own journey into the desert following his baptism. All gathered will come to know techniques to give voice to their own journey of faith, and how it relates to Christ's life on earth.

DARKNESS AND LIGHT: BREAKING OPEN HUMAN DIGNITY

Two concepts that challenge all of us as Christians are *bullying* and *dignity*. Especially in the Christian context, how are these defined? How can we, in the face of bullying, and mean and unsympathetic actions, become good stewards of Christian dignity? This session includes viewing and processing a couple viral videos of a newscaster who responds on air to an insensitive email about her weight, as well as personal stories and music of a child's struggle with cancer and his witness to dignity.

LIVING WATERS: LET MERCY FLOW

In a time when disagreements turn toxic and the pace of life is frenetic, it can be hard to recognize what our baptismal call means to our practical, everyday lives. We Christians must take the heritage of our

faith and apply that to the real-life moments when peace, reconciliation, mercy, justice and truth are needed in our everyday lives. Come experience an evening that is meditative, engaging, humorous, thought-provoking and, above all, a true encounter with God. Leave transformed and revitalized!

EXPLORING THEMES OF DIVINITY, ABANDONMENT, COVENANT, AND SUFFERING IN THE MUSIC OF LENT

This presentation would engage attendees in looking through texts of music for the Lenten season, searching for themes that could then be used at prayer, catechesis, faith-formations sessions, and the like. Some attention would be given to Lenten pieces by Shannon and Orin: "Gather at the Cross," "Fill Us, O God," "Psalm 22" and "God of the Covenants" as well as any other music appropriate for the session. Time would be spent singing and praying the music as well as diving into the texts for revelations and new insights that could be fruitful during the Church's season of repentance and growth.

AN EVENING OF FUN AND HUMOR

Come together for a time of laughter and joy exploring different facets of our faith lives as only Shannon and Orin can. This evening will feed the souls of all in attendance. Segments could include:

- The Games of the XXIII Liturginerd Olympiad
- The parody song "Helping Verbs"
- An fake commercial, "Songs We Should Never Record"
- Other interactive songs, stories, poetry, and more!