

Preparing Large Group Prayer
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General Guidelines:

- Think about the event you are preparing the prayer for
 - Why are we there?
 - How well do we know each other?
 - What is our common bond?
 - Will there be people there who may not be that comfortable with prayer?
 - Be very aware of the above issues as you begin your prayer preparation
- Consider the space that you will be using - for DCYC that means a hotel ballroom
 - Use **big** candles and **big** altars
 - Make sure that symbols help with prayer and do not distract
 - If space is too big for group use plants and banners to close space in, tape off if necessary
 - For Eucharist try to put all host into one large container, not several smaller containers
 - Before liturgy stop and clean up space
 - Do not put deaf people in front of stereo speakers
 - Be aware of light and temperature in your space – designate someone to be in charge of this
 - If possible extend the stage out into the people
- Consider hospitality issues
 - Connect with the assembly
 - If there is a break before the prayer have greeters to welcome community back into room
 - Don't forget to include the ushers in your worship
 - Don't assume people know what to do at Mass – before Mass announce that in this space we won't be kneeling we will stand, after you receive communion go back to your seat and sit, etc.
- Cultural issues
 - Don't come to celebrate diversity, come to celebrate Eucharist
 - Liturgical ministers need to reflect the assembly
 - Rephrase reading in 1-2 sentences in English if it is proclaimed in Spanish
 - Deaf can't hold hands and sign Our Father
 - Do not equate culture with language – think Cuba vs. Mexico
- Music considerations
 - Choose music to support action
 - People want new songs, mix it up
 - Need a big mixing board to sufficiently mic everyone

- Preaching and Proclaiming the Word
 - Get a grip on the podium
 - Speak slowly and clearly
 - Count to 2 at every period
 - Eye contact is very important – look up at the end of each sentence
 - Proclaim from a nice looking book – don't get up in front of the assembly with a handful of papers

Review from last year

- Pray with youth not at them
- Engage the energy of the moment
- Make prayer active and visual
- Listen to the sound of the music
- Involve community in a variety of ways
- Format of Gather, Listen, Respond, and Send Forth