

The Catholic Church and the Language of Mystery

Summary from an article by Joe Paprocki

An innate sense of Wonder and Awe!

Song

Singing lifts our hearts in ways that speaking simply cannot. I remember hearing people say that singing is praying twice. "Amazing Grace" is one of my favorite hymns or songs, responsorial Psalms, the atmosphere caused by a presentation of the "Alleluia" Chorus. I especially enjoy "The Lord of the Dance".

Ritual

Rituals take us out of the ordinary and into the Extraordinary: Signing ourselves with holy water, raising your arms up during the "OUR FATHER", the "Three fold Sign of the Cross" on their forehead, lips, and chest a way of asking that God's Word be in their minds, on their lips, and in their hearts. A production of a Passion Play.

Sign and Symbol

The Use of signs and symbols speak to another level of understanding: the use of incense, ringing of bells, the presence of a cross or crucifix, a Bible, Liturgical colors, the use of stain glass, the presence of icons, the risen Christ, the seeing of someone raising their arms up during the "OUR FATHER", someone doing the "Three fold Sign of the Cross" on their forehead, lips, and chest a way of asking that God's Word be in their minds, on their lips, and in their hearts, etc.

Silence and Reverence

On a trip to Pearl Harbor, the author was struck by the silence and reverence through out the Memorial Site.... A profound sense of the Sacred, Quieting and calming oneself as you enter a church or chapel. Acknowledging a Sacred Space: A cemetery, a place where someone was killed in a car crash or shooting. Placing flowers, notes, pictures, crosses.

Gesture and Movement

God asked Moses to remove his sandals, for he was standing on sacred ground. The Use of Processions, raising your arms up during the "OUR FATHER", the "Three fold Sign of the Cross" on their forehead, lips, and chest a way of asking that God's Word be in their minds, on their lips, and in their hearts.

Metaphor

We can know God, but we can never completely know God, for God is mystery. The parables contain metaphor like the Good Shepherd, the Good Samaritan, the returning of the Prodigal Son, Jesus being the Bread of Life, and the Holy Spirit descended upon them.

Storytelling

Entering the Story, bringing people into the extraordinary story of our faith lived in reality not a lab in a science class. Stories on how God can enter into life in many ways, how Jesus effected those who joined him and how they were effected by: Healing, Concerned, Understanding, and Loving ways. Stories recounting how someone showed or displayed a wonderful godlike love in their lives.

