

Action

- Go to the park, ocean, river, or some place where you can be alone with God's gift of creation. Note the beauty, the imperfections, and the humor that are there. Allow yourself to love these gifts of the Creator. Focus on one tree, plant, rock, or whatever other gift of creation that attracts you. Touch it, observe its curves, shapes, and colors. How does it smell? Sketch it, write a poem or song that captures its essence.
- Start a notebook in which you can sketch or write poetry. Let what you do flow from within, from your soul. "Play" with your sketch, painting, or poem, and have fun with it.
- Volunteer in parish or community organizations that work in areas you are interested in or in which you have experience.

Books and Publications

May I Have This Dance, Joyce Rupp (Ave Maria).

A Tree Full of Angels: Seeing the Holy in the Ordinary, Macrina Wiederkehr (Harper San Francisco).

Walking on Water: Reflections on Faith, Madeleine L'Engle (Shaw Publishing).

From USCCB Publishing

Go and Make Disciples. Pastoral plan on evangelization. English: No. 556-9; Spanish: No. 592-5; 32 pp.

Renewing the Face of the Earth. Suggestions for parish programs on environmental justice. No. 766-9, 80 pp.

To Be a Christian Steward. Summary of bishops' statement on stewardship. English: No. 568-2; Spanish: No. 569-0; 15 pp.

Video/DVDs

Alleluia Easter! A celebration featuring the music of Dave Brubek. www.videoswithvalues.org

Because We Are Disciples. Introduction to the meaning of evangelization. No. 559-3, 12 minutes.

Divining the Human: The Cathedral Tapestries of John Nava. www.olacathedralgifts.com

The Face: Jesus in Art. www.usccbpublishing.org. Video: No. 2180, 60 minutes; DVD: No. 7-0180, 60 minutes.

Faith Works: Across the USA 2005. Inspiring individuals in Catholic ministry in the US. No. 5-709, 60 minutes.

Galileo's Sons. www.bullfrogfilms.com

The Velveteen Rabbit. www.visionvideo.com

To purchase these resources or to obtain a catalog of other USCCB titles, visit Publishing's website at www.usccbpublishing.org or call toll-free 800-235-8722. In the Washington metropolitan area or from outside the United States, call 202-722-8716. Para pedidos en español, llame al 800-235-8722 y presione 4 para hablar con un representante del servicio al cliente en español.



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Creativity

Touching the Divine

Discussion Guide

The spiritual dimension of the creative process is represented through a variety of creative people. *Creativity: Touching the Divine* illustrates that creativity is not just producing something but is an attitude. It is a way of living life, a way of connecting with the divine.

Viewing time: 60 minutes

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Materials Required

- Tables (6-8 people per table)
- TV and DVD player
- One copy of the questions from the discussion guide for each participant
- Modeling clay (enough for a small ball of clay for each participant)—Obtain modeling clay from a crafts store or use a recipe from a crafts book. Make sure that the clay will dry at room temperature.
- Wax paper (enough to cover the table surfaces)
- Water and paper towels
- Reflective music
- CD or tape player
- Prayer table including a table cloth and objects of beauty like shells, rocks, and feathers
- Bible

Initial Preparation

- Schedule a room or a hall that is adequate for the size of your group for about 90 minutes.
 - Divide the viewing time into two half-hour segments.
 - Allow 10-15 minutes for the reflection questions before and after the DVD.
- Preview the DVD and the discussion guide.
- Prepare an opening prayer using Genesis 1 or Proverbs 8:27-31 as the Scripture text.

Program Preparation on Viewing Date

- Arrange chairs so that everyone can see the DVD.
- Set up the prayer table. Cover the table with the cloth and set out the objects. Open the Bible on the table to Genesis 1 or Proverbs 8:27-31.

- Play relaxing music as people arrive and while they work with the clay.
- Cover the tables with wax paper. Place one ball of clay in front of each seat on the table.

On the Viewing Date

Before Viewing

- Provide the following instructions.
 - Grasp the clay. There is no right or wrong way to form this clay.
 - Deeply breathe God's creative presence. Breathe out your anxieties, fears, and those things that hold you back. Let go; let God's creative Spirit work through you.
 - As you listen to the music, let the clay work with you so that it can take shape and form. Create from your soul. Enjoy what you are doing.
- As you watch the DVD, delight in the variety of ways that creativity is expressed.

View the DVD

View the first half-hour of *Creativity: Touching the Divine*. Move on to some of the reflection questions. Continue viewing the DVD, then reflect on the remaining questions.

Reflections on the DVD

Stop the DVD, divide the participants into small groups of 3-5 people, and invite them to reflect on the following questions—first silently then with each other.

1. Creativity is being able to be receptive, allowing creation itself to work, allowing God to reverberate in you, to reflect through you. Creativity is an attitude. It is a way of being in the world. What attitude do you need to allow God to reflect through you?
2. The first chapter of Genesis tells us that after each day of creation, "God saw how good it was." If we are really going to be creative on the model of Genesis, then we are going to make a world that is good for everybody. Are your accomplishments good? What do they do for the community you live in?
3. "There is tremendous risk involved in creativity," according to Thomas Moore. What are the risks? What are the rewards of risking?
4. Madeleine L'Engle said, "I'm made of the same stuff as the stars are, so are you, and we have in us the same original material." What are the implications and challenges of her statement?
5. Jamey Turner's music comes through very ordinary stemmed glasses. Yet out of this ordinary glass comes an extraordinary sound that was in the glass all the time. How are people like that? What extraordinary "music" is in you?
6. Read Matthew 25:14-30. Are you burying gifts or talents God has given you? Why?