



SPRED LITURGIES

Special liturgies are planned to heighten the experience of Christ's sacred presence in the Liturgy of the Word and of the Eucharist for all persons, especially those with developmental disabilities.

SPRED participants and catechists share in the liturgy as leaders in prayer through movement, gesture and music, assisting the assembly in praise and thanksgiving.

There is an annual SPRED liturgy celebrated by the Bishop for the entire Diocese. SPRED liturgies are also planned and celebrated in various parishes.



SACRAMENTAL PARTICIPATION

SPRED also provides preparation for Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation.

SPRED RETREATS

Various types of directed retreats are made available each year:

- **Labor Day Retreat**
integrated retreats for adults with developmental disabilities and Volunteers
- **Reflection Weekend**
days of reflection for Catechists



FOR MORE INFO

If you or someone you know would like more information, please leave a message at 510-635-7252 or email: info@spredoakdiocese.org

Model Training Center:
3705 Dorisa Ave.
Oakland, CA 94605

Administrative Office:
2121 Harrison St.
Oakland, CA 94612
www.oakdiocese.org/spred

SPRED



Special Religious Education Department DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

*"To integrate people with
developmental disabilities to the
faith and life of the church."*



www.oakdiocese.org/spred
Serving Alameda & Contra Costa Counties



WHO WE ARE

SPRED, is the **S**pecial Religious Education Department of the Diocese of Oakland. We are a dedicated staff who work with parish communities to welcome and to integrate persons with developmental disabilities into the faith community.

We assist parishes in developing their own SPRED Center. A Center provides ongoing education in faith and religious services for persons with developmental disabilities.

The SPRED Staff recruits and trains volunteers from their respective parishes to become Chairperson, Activity, Leader, and Sponsor/Helper Catechists.

Any interested adult who has an open heart and a desire to deepen their faith life is welcome. No previous experience with children, teens or adults with developmental disabilities is necessary.



WHAT WE DO

SPRED not only nurtures the faith life of the disabled, but also nurtures the faith life of all volunteers. Catechists are challenged to reflect on their own personal journey in faith.

Sessions are divided into two parts. One week the catechists focus on a particular theme for their preparation. The next week the catechists meet with their SPRED Friends to share that theme through symbolic catechesis.

The learning process becomes a mutual experience. A community of believers develops. The living Church grows in love and in dignity.

OBSERVATION

We invite interested guests to our SPRED Model Training and Observation Center. Guests observe persons with developmental disabilities and their catechists during an integrated session. Observers witness a one-on-one relationship as each person shares a faith experience in a carefully prepared environment.

HOW WE DO IT

For two hours this small community of faith (averaging 16 people per session) experiences an ongoing education in faith in three stages:

- **Preparation**
focus on Montessori activities
- **Symbolic Catechesis**
sharing personal life experiences, praying and singing
- **Agape**
social interaction over food and a beverage

WHY DO WE DO IT

As the Pastoral Statement of U. S. Catholic Bishops on Persons with Disabilities (United States Catholic Conference, Inc., 1978) states,

The same Jesus who heard the cry for recognition from the disabled of Judea and Samaria 2000 years ago calls us, his followers, to embrace our responsibility to our own . . . brothers and sisters . . . for their fuller integration into the Christian community and their fuller participation in its life.



WANT TO HELP?

SPRED is always looking for Volunteers, Catechists and generous donations to help us SPRED the word.

SPRED is a nonprofit 501 (c)3.