

Using the Little Flowers in Formation Programs & Reflection

THE LITTLE FLOWERS CAN BE USED IN MANY WAYS TO RECALL, RETELL, OR REINTERPRET THE STORY OF FRANCIS AND TO DRAW PARALLELS BETWEEN THE LIFE OF JESUS IN THE GOSPELS AND FRANCIS' OWN EXPERIENCES.

- Use the extracts and reflection questions for staff reflection sessions. A different Little Flower could be discussed at each staff meeting in a term, or in group work during a staff reflection day. Discussing the deeper meaning of each story, and its application to contemporary issues within a ministry, would reinforce the ongoing relevance of Francis' gospel living.
- Use the Little Flowers as the basis for creating posters for display within your ministry.
- Invite participants to illustrate the Little Flowers for use in prayer and reflection sessions and to write prayers to accompany each story.
- Lead a Lectio Divina prayer where participants take a story and walk with the story as a contemplative prayer experience. Instructions on using the Contemplative Prayer Walk are provided in the appendices.
- Create reflection cards using the Little Flowers of Francis and gift them to others.
- As a ritual, undertake a group presentation of the Little Flowers. Standing in a circle, invite 10 people (one for each Little Flower) to step forward with a candle and present the message of the story to those assembled.
- Consider dramatizing the Little Flowers for presentation to a wider group.
- Invite participants to research other stories from the Little Flowers of St Francis and to use these for reflection.

