

## What Makes an Effective Prayer Service?

(Tony Cosentino, Renfrew County Catholic Dist. School Board, 2017)

### Bookend: Opening Prayer & Blessings

**Opening:** *Welcome...Our theme is... Let us begin with the sign of our faith: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. And let us pray...through Christ our Lord/in Jesus' name. Amen.*

### Centrality of God's Word

Our school prayer services can be rightly termed *liturgies of the word*. At their heart is the word of God. The Word accomplishes much more than we can with all our words. The word of God is living and active (Heb 4:12). Christ, is present in the Word, and it is He who – through the proclamation of the Word - reaches into our hearts and changes us in profound ways. **This encounter with Christ is central to the New Evangelization.** Tip: Keep it short with younger grades

### Response to Reading

- Reflection or reading of a (mentor) text, Psalm-like proclamation-response, song, powerpoint, skit, video...

### Prayer of Faithful & Our Father

- For the Church, the world, the suffering, local needs, immediate needs, personal intentions. Our Father...

### Bookend: Closing Prayer & Blessing

**Closing:** *... through Christ our Lord. Amen.  
And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.*

