

What is Spred?

Spred is a program of religious education specifically designed to meet the spiritual needs of persons with developmental disabilities from age six through adulthood. Here at St. Patrick, we offer Spred to individuals aged 11-16.

Through the experience of friendship in one-to-one relationships, our friends discover a place where they belong and can enjoy meaningful relationships which help them realize their own giftedness and dignity. Through participation in a Spred community of faith, our friends are better able to celebrate the sacraments and enter into the worshipping experiences of the whole Church.

Training for volunteers is presented by the Spred Agency and is held in the Fall and Spring.



My Dear Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

"...I want to touch your hearts and spirits to become more aware that developmentally disabled people regardless of age need nourishment for their spiritual lives as well as opportunities to give glory to God.

These people have a right to live in and to be welcomed into all areas of life. Especially they have the right to be baptized and welcomed into the liturgical life of God's people.

A welcoming attitude searches for ways to assure a place for everyone."

~ Pastoral Guidelines
~ Joseph Cardinal Bernardin

Spred catechists and friends meet on
Monday evenings at 7 p.m.
in the O'Gara Activity Center

If you know someone who would like to
volunteer as a Spred catechist or
someone who would benefit from Spred
services, please contact
Jennifer Boldry at 847.234.1401

St. Patrick Church Special Religious Education Spred Ministry

Growing in Friendship



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Small Community of Faith

Spred offers the following mission statement:

- *To form small communities of faith in parishes;*
- *To welcome persons with developmental disabilities and learning problems;*
- *To foster inclusion in assemblies of worship.*

Volunteers Are Always Welcome

Spred invites and trains volunteers to prepare a special place for our Friends. Volunteers develop rewarding relationships within the Spred group and often discover that their own faith experience is enhanced and nurtured by the process.

Spred Catechesis

Every Spred session begins with the preparation or activity phase. When our friends arrive, they are greeted and welcomed. A prepared environment arranged by the activity catechist fosters a sense of belonging, well-being and concentration. Friends and catechists begin working on an activity of their choice. Different media, such as art materials, daily living activities, and music, are provided for all.

After all activity materials are put away, we gather in the Holy Room. Spred uses symbolic catechesis to bring the session's message to all. The leader catechist engages members in discussions that relate everyday experiences to prayer and Scripture. Here the Bible is read, its message is given individually, and voices are raised in song to praise God. Here a sense of the sacred, prayerful awareness and an attitude of celebration is evoked.

Following catechesis, the Spred Community comes together to share a meal, symbolic of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. This is called agape. It is characterized by the sharing of food and the sharing of joy and praise in the form of conversation and song.

Want to Know More?

If you would like to learn more about Spred, you can visit its website at:
www.spred.org

You can observe a Spred group in session at one of two sites in the Chicago area.

You can contact Jennifer Boldry at 847-234-1401.

Funding

St. Patrick's Spred group is funded by the parish as well as private donations. Our Spred catechists and supporters participate in the annual Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive.

Individual donations are always welcome.