

STMM 593 Awakening the Sacred Through the Arts
Summer 2005
Judith Boyle/Joannie Cassidy SSJ

Course Description:

The power and possibilities of aesthetic experience educates the whole person. This course will explore a wide range of artistic processes including storytelling, drama, interplay and movement and will demonstrate how they can unearth and enhance the religious experience of people of all ages. Participants will engage in these processes to deepen their own experiences and then explore the ways in which they can apply these processes to retreat creation/facilitation, teaching and other ministries.

Required Texts:

- *The Ethiopian Tattoo Shop* by Edward Hays; Forest of Peace Books, 1983. ISBN 0939516063
- *The Haunt of Grace: Responses to the Mysteries of God's Presence* by Ted Loder; Innisfree Press, Inc., 2002. ISBN 1880913577 or Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 2004. ISBN 0806690348
- *Introducing Dance and Movement in Christian Worship* by Ronald Gagne, Thomas Kane and Robert Vereecke; Pastoral Press, 1999. ISBN 156929030X
- *Stories of Awe and Abundance* by Jose Hobday; Continuum International, 1999. ISBN 0826411614
- *Stories of the Spirit; Stories of the Heart: Parables of the Spiritual Path from Around the World* by Christina Feldman and Jack Kornfield; Harper Collins, 1991. ISBN 0062503219
- *Thespian Theology* by John A TenBrook; CSS, 2001. ISBN 0788018108

Recommended Texts:

- *Celebrating the Rhythm of Life* by Patricia Livingston; Ave Maria Press, 1992.
- *Holy Fools & Mad Hatters* by Edward Hays; Forest of Peace Books, 1993.
- *Kitchen Table Wisdom: Stories that Heal* by Rachel Naomi; Riverhead Books, The Berkley Publishing Co., 1996.
- *The Legend of the Bells* by John Shea; ACTA, 1996.
- *Rumi: Hidden Music* by Jalal; translated by Azima M. Kolin and Maryam Mafi; Thorsons, HarperCollins, 2001.
- *Peace Is Every Step: The Path of Mindfulness in Everyday Life* by Thich Nhat Hanh Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1992.

Course Requirements:

1. Read all the required texts with your "head and heart" and make notes as you read. Although not handed in to the instructors, your notes will be used during the course as starting points for discussion, reflection and integration. Due: the first day of class.
2. Active participation in the course. As such, it includes: attendance at class sessions, deliberate and reflective engagement with the texts, verbal and non-verbal participation in class discussions and intentional involvement in class activities.
3. During the course, write 2 reflective journal entries per day. Due: the last day of class.
4. Using the guidelines provided in class, design/create an aesthetic experience. This integration project will be informed by your reading, the processes explored in class and your own life experiences. It is suggested to create something that you would use in your ministry and that integrates your intellectual as well as experiential learning. Due: the last day of class.

Biography:

Judith Boyle

Hailing from the San Francisco Bay Area, Judith Boyle, B.S., M.A., has been living and working in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada for the last nine years. She has been an actor, a drama teacher, a lector coordinator, a youth minister and a retreat facilitator for parishes and youth groups. Currently, Judith is the Department Head of Student Activities at Harry Ainlay High School, a retreat team member for Austin O'Brien High School and President of Moxy Brenner Theatre Productions.

Joannie Cassidy SSJ

Comes to Seattle University having a BA in Elementary Education and Psychology and a Masters in Pastoral Studies with a concentration in Spirituality. She has been a teacher at the elementary, junior high and college levels, a spiritual director, and workshop presenter for women's issues and spirituality. Presently serving as campus minister, Joannie is responsible for the planning and organization of the service learning immersion classes and site visits, outreach projects, liturgies, prayer, sacramental preparation, and faith formation for students and staff. In addition to her ministry responsibilities, she has led directed retreats, faculty retreats, workshops, and courses in spirituality incorporating her gifts of art, dance, storytelling, music, and poetry. Grounded in the spirituality of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Joannie brings her love of God and neighbor to her teaching.