



Module 11: Sample Celebrations and Services

But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you. For you bless the righteous, O LORD; you cover him with favor as with a shield.

Psalms 5:11-12

How we will proceed

Although I will share a few of my own personal celebrations and services, once again I will strongly emphasize that it is essential to know the people and animals you will be honoring and design your celebrations accordingly. There are many samples on line, but they are merely generic, and may have neither relevance nor value to the event you are officiating at. Metaphorically speaking, compare a standing house in need of renovations to a custom-built residence, tailored to your needs and preferences. The message is: Tailor and custom build your services and celebrations to fit the needs and exigencies of the people and animals involved. This is not a time for compromises!

As you read through the prayers, you may wish to edit or rewrite some of the wording to best fit the circumstances. Here is a tip: If you are offering

prayers and invocations on behalf of the community or for the world, include themes that are pertinent to the times. Recently I presided at a Pet Memorial Day service and integrated prayers for all affected by recent hurricanes.

The service you are officiating at is in a sense a trinity – God, you and the participants. Again – know your “congregation”! Don’t commit a grave error of implementing a boiler plate outline word for word. Pray, spend a little time, reflect and draw inspiration of the trinity present.

Attached to this module is a sample memorial service outline and prayer service for neglected dogs from every continent, abandoned animals that have passed away without ever experiencing love and nurturing or the joys of life in a caring family. The latter is an invocation I wrote and pray each morning in my office prior to starting my day.

My vision is to build the largest Animal “community” in the world. This will happen figuratively speaking, stone by stone, with goal setting intentions, hard work, determination, tenacity and faith on the part of a solid team of committed Animal Chaplains.

It is not mandatory for a graduate of this training to be affiliated with Joe Dwyer’s Animal Chaplain Family, but it would strengthen the network and be appreciated. In unity, there is power.

As a team we can share ideas, experiences, and prayers while generating a strong current of enthusiasm. We will be posting stories of those we serve who are in agreement, and thus through the potency of social media begin to make a difference for animals around the world.

He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs And carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes.

Isaiah 40:11

Compensation

It is recommended to open all services and celebrations to donations in lieu of setting a fee. When spiritual and emotional needs have been gratified, people have a tendency to give back generously.

Moreover, as we grow, speaking opportunities will become more prevalent and revenue will be shared.

Module 11: Assignment

Assignment Number 1

Review all the templates attached to this module. Comment about your initial thoughts and mention how you would draft prayers and reflections according to the service, people, animals and your own personal outlook and style.

Congratulations!
You have successfully completed
Module 11.

Please take some time to celebrate this accomplishment and refresh yourself before moving on to Module 12.