

saint mary's press

Celebrate
and
Remember

Reconciliation

Home Guide



Celebrate and Remember Reconciliation

Home Guide

The publishing team included Gloria Shahin, editorial director; Joanna Dailey, development editor; prepress and manufacturing coordinated by the production departments of Saint Mary's Press.

Copyright © 2011 by Saint Mary's Press, Christian Brothers Publications, 702 Terrace Heights, Winona, MN 55987-1320, www.smp.org. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced by any means without the written permission of the publisher.

Printed in the United States of America

2327

ISBN 978-1-59982-072-9

Celebrate and Remember Reconciliation

Home Guide

David Galusha



saint mary's press

Contents

Introduction	5
Chapter 1	
In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit	13
Chapter 2	
Trust in God's Mercy	17
Chapter 3	
We Follow God's Word	21
Chapter 4	
I Confess	25
Chapter 5	
I Am Sorry	29
Chapter 6	
Pardon and Peace	33
Chapter 7	
His Mercy Endures Forever	37
Chapter 8	
Go in Peace	41
Acknowledgments	45

Introduction

Welcome!

Your child's relationship with the Catholic Church began in the Sacrament of Baptism. At that time you brought your child to the entrance of the church, where you declared your willingness to bring her up within the Christian community and according to the Catholic faith. Now your family is ready to take the next steps in including your child in the life of the Church.

The next steps in the initiation of children into the life of the Church are the celebration of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist.

Just as you and your family took part in a preparation program prior to celebrating your child's Baptism, now you are asked to help your child to better understand the meaning of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. In this period immediately preceding the reception of the Sacraments, it is vital that children receive more in-depth catechesis in the parish and in the home.

The *Celebrate and Remember: Reconciliation* Home Guide has been especially developed to assist you to use the child's book in formal at-home preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You have chosen to be the primary catechist in the process of Sacrament preparation, which is in keeping with your ongoing role in the religious formation of your children. Your pastor and parish catechists stand ready to offer you support and any assistance you feel that you need over the next several weeks.

Much of the informal preparation for Reconciliation has been ongoing in your home and in the parish community. Your child is already aware of your Christian moral values and the care with which you make moral decisions each day. Through your living of gospel values, the sense of moral responsibility has gradually come to be internalized within the family. Through your involvement with your parish community and in the celebration of the Eucharist, your child has undoubtedly come to view the Church as an instrument of forgiveness, consolation, and reconciliation.

Your prayerful and sincere dedication to this preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist will provide an opportunity to strengthen your appreciation of your own faith, and then to share that faith with your child.

Before You Begin: Some Things to Consider

Preparing your child for First Reconciliation is a wonderful opportunity. You already know that how you present an activity can make a difference in your child's response. You, and your entire family, can help set the tone of Sacrament preparation. If you create this as a fun, meaningful, quality time with your child, he or she will likely come to look forward to this time together with you and will cherish the memory of it later in life.

Choose the time and setting for your First Reconciliation lessons carefully. Find a time and place that is relatively quiet, and minimize distractions by turning off the radio, television, and phones. Select a time when your child is not typically tired or hungry, or include a snack as part of the experience. By being attentive to such scheduling issues, you will make this a time together that everyone looks forward to.

Many families will complete each lesson in one sitting. However, if your child has a shorter attention span, or if it is a better fit with your family time, divide the lesson into several shorter meetings, or complete the lesson on Sunday and do the family activities on other days of the week.

When you are working with your child, take the time to listen. Don't give in to the temptation to rush your child to respond or to supply the answers yourself. Your interest and patience show your child that what he or she thinks is important to you.

In general, complete the activities alongside your child. For example, if your child is drawing a picture showing forgiveness, draw your own picture to share with your child. Be sure to keep extra paper handy for yourself.

As you become familiar with the home guide and the structure of the child's book, you will be more comfortable tailoring a lesson to be most effective for your individual child.

The Learning Process

The *Celebrate and Remember: Reconciliation* Child's Book is designed to help young children to understand forgiveness of sin and participation in the Rite of Penance. It is the basis for the other *Celebrate and Remember: Reconciliation* components.

The child's book consists of eight chapters that have ten pages each. Each chapter begins with a ritual prayer experience. This ritual prayer allows the learners to ground the chapter content in an experience of prayer that is directly related to the liturgy and the prayers and essential understandings associated with each part of the liturgy. The core content is then developed in We Listen, We Learn, and We Live. The chapter ends with a closing prayer in the We Pray section.

We Listen is a two-page section featuring Scripture that is tied to the focus of the lesson.

We Learn is a four-page section that presents the doctrinal and liturgical points of the lesson.

We Live is a two-page section that applies the lesson to your child's life.

We Pray is a one-page concluding prayer related to the content within the chapter. Your family can pray together for growth in faith and for strength to live as disciples of Christ.

The chart below illustrates how each chapter is constructed.

Page 1	Opening Prayer
Pages 2 and 3	We Listen (Scripture)
Pages 4 through 7	We Learn (Doctrine)
Pages 8 and 9	We Live (Application)
Page 10	We Pray (Closing Prayer)

Each lesson offers additional learning features in the child’s book, which may include the following:

With My Family This feature appears three times in each chapter and provides quick and simple activities that you can do together as a family.

Faith Highlights This feature highlights points of Catholic doctrine your child should be familiar with as part of their preparation for the Sacrament.

Saint Spotlight This feature offers short biographies of saints. It familiarizes your child with other people of faith who can be examples for us.

Living Our Faith This feature provides specific teachings of the Church that have an impact on our daily lives.

In addition to the core chapters, the child’s book also includes a resource section with the following special features:

Where We Celebrate Reconciliation This section illustrates the interior of a reconciliation room and describes a confessional, both used for individual celebration of the Sacrament.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: The Communal Celebration This is an instructional outline of the liturgical rite of the Sacrament celebrated in community with the opportunity for individual confession.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: The Individual Celebration This is a step-by-step outline of the Rite of Reconciliation.

An Examination of Conscience This feature provides an examination of conscience developed for young children to guide them as they prepare to receive the Sacrament.

Catholic Prayers and Practices This section contains some key prayers, including: the Sign of the Cross, the Lord’s Prayer, the Glory Be to the Father, the Hail Mary, the Apostles’ Creed, an Act of Contrition, and an Act of Hope, as well as listings of the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, the Precepts of the Church, and the teachings of Jesus.

Glossary This is a compiled list of terms and definitions that are helpful for those who are preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Certificate Each child’s book contains a frame-ready certificate that can be signed and used to mark the date of first reception of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Child’s Book Contents

Chapter Title	Scripture	Key Church Teaching
1. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit	God Forgives Us (Genesis 2:7-9,15-17; 3:1-24)	Baptism washes away sin and gives us new life. Jesus gives us the Sacrament of Reconciliation to bring us back to God when we sin.
2. Trust in God’s Mercy	The Forgiving Father (Luke 15:11-24)	The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a gift of God’s life that makes us new again.
3. We Follow God’s Word	God Tells Us How to Live (Exodus 19:20, 20:1-17)	Jesus came to show us how to follow God’s rules.
4. I Confess	Prepare Your Life for the Lord! (Matthew 3:1-6,13-17)	The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a sacrament of <i>conversion</i> .
5. I Am Sorry	Jesus Forgives the Sorrowful Sinner (Luke 7:36-40,47-50)	Sorrow for sin includes a resolve not to sin again.
6. Pardon and Peace	Jesus Brings Salvation (Luke 19:1-9)	In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we are reconciled with God and all his people, the Church.
7. His Mercy Endures Forever	Jesus Is the Good Shepherd (Luke 15:1-7)	Jesus loves us even when we sin, and rejoices when we come back to him.
8. Go in Peace	Jesus Gives Us Peace (John 14:23-27)	The Sacrament of Reconciliation helps us to live as disciples of Jesus.

Liturgy**Prayer****Living Reconciliation**

The priest welcomes us.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Sign of the Cross• We Praise the Trinity	We are called to be followers of Jesus.
The priest prays that we trust God's mercy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Prayer for God's Mercy• A Prayer for Forgiveness	When we make bad choices, God is ready to forgive us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
We listen to God's Word.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We Pray with the Word of God• We Pray to Follow God's Word	Jesus teaches us the New Commandment of love.
We confess our sins.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Return to the Lord• The Lord's Prayer	The Holy Spirit gives us courage.
The priest gives us a penance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An Act of Contrition• The Hail Mary Prayer	We try to make up for our sins.
The priest gives us absolution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Song of Peace• We Pray to Jesus	We have to work for peace.
With the priest, we thank God for his mercy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Praise for God's Mercy• Prayer to the Good Shepherd	Jesus never stops loving us.
We go in peace, because we are freed from our sins.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus Blesses Us• We Are Easter People!	We walk with Jesus along the "Conversion Road."