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# We Are Welcomed Chapter

### Rite of Penance

"By receiving repentant sinners and leading them to the light of the truth, the confessor fulfills a paternal function: he reveals the heart of the Father and reflects the image of Christ, the Good Shepherd" (no. 10c).

### Catechism Connection

To deepen your own background and reflection on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, refer to the Catechism of the Catholic Church 1441-1445

### Catechist Resources



A New Look at Grace: A Spirituality of Wholeness Bill Huebsch

Twenty-Third Publications

Helps the reader rediscover the power and beauty of God's arace



Blessings and Prayers Throughout the Year: A Resource for School and Parish

Flizabeth McMahon leep Liturgy Training Publications

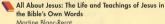
Provides prayers, blessings, rituals, and songs for occasions throughout the school year

### Children's Resources



Jesus Stories: Jesus Heals (17 min) Vision Video

Retells the stories of Bartimaeus and Zacchaeus



Loyola Press

Illustrated book uses the words of the Bible to teach about lesus

# **Catechist Formation**

"Today I must stay at your house."

luke 19:5

### We Belong to God

When we hurt someone, we are often afraid to approach the person to say we are sorry and to ask forgiveness. We may hesitate because we fear retaliation or a rebuff. When a break occurs in our relationship with God, however, we have no need for such fear. Jesus, in his life and ministry, showed us the face of a God, who always welcomes the sinner. Many times Jesus gathered with sinners, and each time he proclaimed the compassion and mercy of God the Father.

Christians die and rise with Christ in the Sacrament of Baptism. The Sacrament of Penance provides sinners with an opportunity to renew their union with God. In this Sacrament the priest represents the person of Christ in a loving and welcoming way.

### We Are Welcome

The Rite of Penance conveys God's welcome through its opening greeting and through the proclamation of God's word that recalls his endless love for all people. The priests who celebrate this Sacrament make every attempt to be people who reflect the care, acceptance, and mercy of Christ. In this way, those who participate in this Sacrament hear Jesus speaking to them, and they encounter Christ as people of two thousand years ago encountered him. The light of Christ, seen in the baptismal candle, is once again rekindled in the lives of those who seek God's mercy.

Which people in your life have reflected God's love and mercy to you?

What Scripture passages most help you understand God's great mercy?

# Catechist Prayer

God of love, visit me this day with your tender mercy. Give me the confidence to live fully as your own child, created in your image. Amen.

		OBJECTIVES	LESSON PROCESS	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS
BRATE	Pages 12–13	Ritual Focus Renewal of Baptismal Promises To experience a celebration of the word, including the Renewal of Baptismal Promises	Celebrate the opening prayer.		PROGRAM RESOURCES Songs of Celebration CD, track 2 OTHER MATERIALS Bible, prayer table,
CELEB	Pages 14–15	To explore the meaning of the ritual actions of the Renewal of Baptismal Promises  To present the concept of forgiveness	Reflect on the celebration. Complete the activity.  Read about and discuss holy water. Present what sin is and is not.  Read about and discuss candles.	Reflect Children reflect on the experience of the celebration and the meaning of the Renewal of Baptismal Promises.	candle, large glass bowl filled with water
EB	30 minutes Pages 16–17	Faith Focus What happens when Jesus welcomes us? To show that Jesus welcomes sinners	Discuss how Jesus brings us good news.  Proclaim the Gospel story.  Luke 19:1-10	Children write about welcoming Jesus into their homes.	PROGRAM RESOURCES Copies of Activity Master 2, p. CE4 Copies of Scripture Drama 2,
8 2			Complete the activity.	Suggested activities for the home	pp. CE5–6 OTHER MATERIALS
REMEN	Pages 18–19	Faith Focus How are we welcomed in the Sacrament of Reconciliation?  To explain how we are welcomed in the Sacrament of Reconciliation	Identify Reconciliation as a second chance at living a good life.  Discuss free will, mortal sin, venial sin, and communal and individual celebrations of Reconciliation.	Faith at Home Suggested activities for the home	OTHER MATERIALS Lectionary and/or Book of the Gospels
			Read about the Reconciliation room.		Wellat of nesting round -
LIVE	15 minutes Page 20	To reflect on preparing for Reconciliation	Introduce the activity.  Pray the Closing Blessing.  Read aloud the People of Faith story about Saint Monica.	Respond Children write a letter to God.	PROGRAM RESOURCES Songs of Celebration CD, track 2
FAITH	Page 21	Faith at Home To introduce the different parts of the Faith at Home page	Review the Faith at Home page.  Encourage children to share this page at home.	Suggested activities for the home	PROGRAM RESOURCES Family Guide, pp. 18–19

# CELEBRATE

# **Objective**

To experience a celebration of the word, including the Renewal of Baptismal Promises

# Preparation

Familiarize yourself with the movements of the ritual focus for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises on page 12.

- a Bible
- · a table covered with a white cloth
- a candle and a large glass bowl filled with water on the prayer table
- · a small tree branch

Use the Songs of Celebration CD, track 2, to rehearse the suggested song, "We Are Marching/ Siyahamba," or one of the optional music suggestions on page 13.

Select a child to carry the Bible in procession.

# We Gather

Invite children to assemble with their books.

Gather children into the prayer space with a procession.

- Direct children to follow you and the child carrying the Bible.
- As you process, lead children in singing using the Songs of Celebration CD, track 2.
- · When all are assembled, light the prayer candle.
- Begin the prayer, and lead the children in the Sign of the Cross.

Follow the order of prayer on pages 12-13.



# 🌋 Ritual Background

Bearing the Light of Christ One of the beautiful "explanatory rites" following the water bath of Baptism is the giving of a candle lit from the Paschal candle. The gesture of taking the flame from the Paschal candle expresses that this lighted candle signifies a sharing in the light of Christ.

The words the priest says at this point also recall the parable of the wise and foolish maidens. The wise young women kept their lamps burning, and were ready to enter the marriage feast when the bridegroom came.

When the newly baptized receive their candles, the priest urges them to "keep the flame of faith alive in your hearts. When Christ comes, may you go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom."



0

Leader: Sprinkle children with water. Make the Sign of the Cross as you are sprinkled with holy water.

### We Listen

Leader: Good and gracious Father, send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to the good news of your Son, Jesus, the Light of the World. We ask this in his name

All: Amen.

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord. Leader: Read Luke 19:1-10.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you. Lord Jesus Christ. Sit silently.

### We Go Forth

Leader: Loving Father, thank you for the Light of Christ, Send us the Holy Spirit to help us live as children of the light.

All: Amen.

Sing the opening song together.



# 🗱 Liturgical Background

### Renewal of Baptismal

Promises The practice of renewing Baptismal Promises is relatively new to the liturgy. It dates from 1951, when the Easter Vigil was reformed under Pope Pius XII.

The Renewal of Baptismal Promises was:

- · an attempt to revitalize the faith of the congregation
- · an attempt to strengthen the baptismal focus of Faster

 intended to help everyone understand the connection between the new life of Baptism and the Resurrection of Jesus celebrated at Faster

Today, baptismal promises are renewed at the Masses of Easter day as well.

## Ritual Focus: Renewal of Baptismal Promises

- · Invite children to gather around the prayer table.
- Lead the Renewal of Baptismal Promises.
- · Dip the small branch in the water, and sprinkle children with water.

# We Listen

For the proclamation of the Gospel, you may use a Bible or the adapted reading in the Child's Book on pages 16-17.

# We Go Forth

Lead the closing prayer. As children process back to their seats, have them sing Songs of Celebration CD, track 2. "We Are Marching/Siyahamba," or one of the optional music suggestions.

Optional Music Suggestions:

"Yes Lord | Believe," @ John Burland, Ovation Music Service

"Salmo 99: Nosotros somos su pueblo,"

© Jaime Cortez. Published by OCP

"All Are Welcome," Marty Haugen © GIA Publications

## CELEBRATE

# **Objective**

To explore the meaning of the ritual actions of the Renewal of Baptismal Promises

To present the concept of forgiveness

# Liturgical Catechesis

The purpose of this section is to help children reflect on their experiences of the signs, rituals, prayers, and gestures of the celebration and to lead them to express their own meaning of the experiences. Allow children to share their experiences without commenting on them.

# The Light of Christ

- On the board or chart paper, write the following questions: What did you see? What did you hear? What did you do?
- Guide children to reflect on the celebration by reviewing what happened in the prayer.
- Invite children to share their responses to the questions.

### \*

### Reflect

- Distribute drawing materials.
- Have the children complete the activity.
- · Invite volunteers to share and explain their pictures.

### T Holy Water

- Read aloud the text.
- Explain where holy water fonts or baptismal pools are located in your parish church. Encourage children to use the holy water from the font or pool to make the Sign of the Cross the next time they are in church.

# The Light of Christ



Water blessed by a priest or deacon is called holy water. It is a sign of cleanship from sin when the water is sprinked on the assembly. It may be sprinked on the assembly, it may sunday Mass, especially during the Easter season. We use holy water to make the Sign of the Cross and remember our Baptism as we come into church.



Renewal of Baptismal Promises Draw and write about one way that you can march in the Light of Christ.



# Additional Activity

Make Christ cards Have children discuss what kinds of actions they can do that would be signs that they were "Marching in the light of Christ."

- Distribute two to three index cards to each child.
- Invite children to write a different action on each card.
- Tell them they may also write actions that were not brought up in the discussion.
- When they have finished, collect the cards and put them in a basket or container.

- Tell children they may choose one card from the basket this week and next, and then perform the action before the next session.
- Review the cards before you put them in the basket to be sure they are appropriate and "doable" activities.



### Children of the Light

At Baptism we receive a candle. The priest or deacon prays that we will walk as children of the light. We are children of the light when we love and care about other people.

Sometimes we do not act like children of the light. Even though we love our family, we may do things that are unkind. We may hurt our friends. Sometimes we choose not to care about what others want or need. We choose sin.

We know what it is like to do something wrong. We know what it is like to feel sorry and want to make up. What if we never got a second chance?



Candles are signs of Christ, the Light of the World. Candles are used at the altar during Mass. The most important candle used in the sacraments is the Paschal candle. This candle is blessed at the Easter Vioil and burned during the Masses of the Easter season. It is also burned at Baptisms and funerals throughout the year. Sometimes candles are placed before the altars of Mary and the saints. These candles are a

sign of respect and prayer.



# Children of the Light

- . Invite a child to read aloud the first paragraph.
- · Summarize the second paragraph and spend some time talking about what sin is and is not.
- . Use the Teaching Tip below to help you.
- Read the third paragraph and invite children to share their experiences of getting a second chance.
- · Reinforce their feelings of relief and happiness when they express them.
- . Remind them that Jesus is always ready to give us a second chance

 Read aloud the text. Help children recall where they can see candles in the parish church.

# Teaching Tip

Clarifying concepts Some children may have difficulty distinguishing among mistakes, accidents, and sins.

- · Provide the class with several ageappropriate examples of each.
- · Discuss each example with children, asking them to suggest why the action was or was not sinful.
- · Remind them that sins are deliberate wrong and hurtful actions. Mistakes and accidents are not done on purpose and therefore are not sins.

# REMEMBER

# **Objective**

To show that Jesus welcomes sinners

### Faith Focus

What happens when Jesus welcomes us?

List children's responses on the board or on chart paper.

# **Jesus Brings Good News**

Call attention to the illustration. Ask children to describe what is unusual about it. There is a man in the tree.

- Ask whether anyone remembers who is in the tree and why. Zacchaeus; to see better
- · Alert children to listen to the story to remember what Jesus thought of this man.



# 7acchaeus

- · Gather children into a story circle or in the prayer space. Remind them that they will be hearing the story from the Gospel of Luke again.
- · Ask what they remember from hearing the Gospel during the celebration.
- · Reread the story aloud.
- · Or, select some children to dramatize the story. Use the text on pages CE5-6 of this edition.
- · Talk about how Zacchaeus may have felt when Jesus first saw him in the tree.

# **Jesus Brings Good News**

Faith Focus

### What happens when Jesus welcomes us?

Jesus welcomed sinners. He ate and drank with them. He gave them a second chance. He told them stories about God. He healed and forgave them. When people got to know Jesus, they changed.



# 7 acchaeus

One day Jesus was going through the town of Jericho. The crowds gathered to see him. He did not plan to stop there. On his way through the town, Jesus looked up into a sycamore tree. There in the branches was a man! It was Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus was a rich tax collector and a sinner. He really wanted to see Jesus. He climbed the tree because he was so short that he could not see lesus

When Jesus saw Zacchaeus, he said, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." Zacchaeus came down quickly and welcomed Jesus to his house with joy. He was very happy.





# **B** Scripture Background

Lucan themes This story includes three important themes of Luke's Gospel.

- · An outcast receives Jesus with praise and joy and then testifies to the mercy of God at work in his life.
- Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem preaching the Gospel, and challenging his hearers to evaluate their lives.
- Jesus proclaims salvation has come "today" to the house of Zacchaeus.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus is often found eating with and speaking to "tax collectors and sinners." (See Luke 5:30, Luke 7:34, and Luke 15:1.) His association with these

people is a source of controversy and of rejection on the part of the Jewish religious leaders of the times.

Throughout the Gospel of Luke there is an insistence that it is not people's prejudices or occupations that separate the righteous from sinners but their response to Jesus and to his message.



The people in the crowd were not happy.
They said, "He has gone to stay at the
house of a sinner." They did not think
lesus should be around sinners.

Zacchaeus told Jesus, "I will give half of my possessions to the poor. If I have taken anything from anyone, I will pay them back four times more."

Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, today God's forgiveness has come to your house."

BASED ON LUKE 19:1

Why do you think Jesus decided to stop at Zacchaeus' house?

How would you feel if Jesus came to your home? How would you change?



#### Share

Get ready In the space below, write one thing you would do if Jesus came to your home.



Tax collectors Absent landlords and oppressive Roman rule made life for the peasant Jews of Israel difficult. "Tax collectors" came to be regarded as "sinners" because they performed undesirable work for the Romans. Not only did they collect taxes for the enemy but they also often took extra profif for themselves. Jewish national pride fed on hopes that someday the Romans would be overthrown and once again, they would maintain their Jewish identity as a people, a nation, and a religion. Collecting taxes for the Romans only postponed Jewish hopes for that reality.



- Explain to children that the next part of the story tells what others thought about Zacchaeus.
- Finish reading aloud the story. Have children report on what Zacchaeus promised Jesus and how Jesus responded. He promised to give things to the poor and repay people he had cheated; Jesus said that forgiveness had come to his house.
- Discuss the question. He knew that Zacchaeus wanted to see him; Jesus welcomed sinners.
- ② Discuss the question. Accept all reasonable responses.



- · Explain the activity to children and set a time limit.
- Have children complete the activity individually.
- Walk among children to assist them with the activity.
- Have children share their work with a partner or with the class.

### **Activity Master**

You may wish to use Activity Master 2 on page CE4 to further integrate the meaning of the Gospel story.



▲ Activity Master 2

### Review

- Jesus welcomed sinners.
- The story of Zacchaeus shows that God forgives everyone who is sorry.

# REMEMBER

# **Objective**

To explain how we are welcomed in the Sacrament of Reconciliation

### Faith Focus

How are we welcomed in the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

List children's responses on the board or on chart paper.

# **Second Chance**

Recall that Jesus gave Zacchaeus a second chance to live a good life. Tell children that Reconciliation gives us a second chance, too.

- Write terms on the board or on chart paper:
   Sacrament of Reconciliation, Sacrament of Penance,
   mortal sin, venial sin.
- Summarize the information on the page, stopping to explain the terms as you work through the text.
- Ask children the difference between mortal sin and venial sin. A mortal sin is a very serious sin; a venial sin is a less serious sin.

### Reconciliation Room

 With the children, visit the Reconciliation room in your parish church, or describe where it is and suggest that children visit it when they attend Mass with their families.

## Second Chance



Reconciliation Room
The place where individuals celebrate

the Sacrament of Reconciliation with the priest is called a Reconciliation room. The room is set up so we can sit face-toface with the priest, or we may choose to kneel or sit behind a screen while we speak to him. The priest cannot ever tell what we say to him during the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



#### Faith Focus

# How are we welcomed in the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

When God created us, he gave us free will. This is the ability to choose between right and wrong. When we choose to do what we know is wrong, we sin.

One of the ways we can show we are sorry for our sins and ask God's forgiveness is in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We also call this the Sacrament of Penance, the Sacrament of Forgiveness, or Confession

We can celebrate this Sacrament again and again. It is necessary to do so when we choose to turn away from God's love and separate ourselves from God's life. This is called a mortal sin. For a sin to be mortal, it must be seriously wrong, we must know it is seriously wrong, and we must freely choose to do it anyway. We can also receive this Sacrament for less serious sins that weaken our friendship with God. A less serious sin is called a verial sin.

# Catechist Background

# v careemst backgroun

**Sin** Emphasize that an act is sinful when:

- I know something is wrong and I choose to do it anyway.
- I stop and think about whether I should do it and I decide I will do it.
- I actually do it.

Sometimes children have difficulty discerning what a sin is and what the difference is between mortal and venial sin.

Younger children may judge the seriousness of a sin by how much material damage is done or by how upset significant adults become over the action. This is a developmental issue. As children mature, they will become clearer about distinctions

between a serious (mortal) sin and a less serious (venial) sin. It is important to help them clarify when something is a serious matter and what constitutes full consent of will



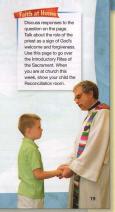
### Preparation and Welcome

The Church celebrates Penance in two ways. In individual celebrations the person seeking forgiveness meets alone with the priest. In communal celebrations groups of people gather to listen to God's word and pray. Then each person tells his or her sins privately to the priest.

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation the priest acts in the place of Jesus. The priest is a sign of God's forgiveness. He prepares to welcome us to the Sacrament of Penance by praying to the Holy Spirit. He asks the Holy Spirit to help him tell us about God's love and forgiveness.

We prepare for the Sacrament by praying to the Holy Spirit and looking at our actions. We begin with the Sign of the Cross. In an individual celebration, the priest then greets us with words like these: "May God who has enlightened every heart help you to know your sins and trust in his mercy." We answer, "Amen."

How will you ask the Holy Spirit to help you look at your life?



### Preparation and Welcome

Write communal and individual on the board or on chart paper. As you discuss each way of celebrating Penance, point to the proper term.

- · Read aloud the text. Pause occasionally to be certain children understand the terms and concepts.
- · Ask children whom the priest acts in the place of during Reconciliation. Jesus
- · Read the priest's greeting and have children practice saving "Amen."
- Discuss the question. Accept all reasonable responses.

### Review

- We can receive Reconciliation many times.
- Serious sins are called mortal sins: less serious sins are called venial sins.

# Sacrament Background

Confession to a priest The practice of an individual confessing to a priest developed during the sixth to the ninth centuries within monastic communities where members of the community would talk about their failures and specific sinful actions with a priest who would pray with them and give them a penance.

Earlier, Reconciliation was only celebrated by persons who had committed very serious and public sins, such as murder, adultery, or apostasy. When they had a change of heart, they would confess their sin to the bishop and seek reconciliation with the

community and God. The bishop would give them a public penance which could be very long and severe. After the person had fulfilled their penance and shown signs of conversion, they would be admitted back to the Fucharist



# LIVE

## **Objective**

To reflect on preparing for Reconciliation

# **Preparing to Celebrate**



## Respond

Explain the activity to children. Tell children to use words to show their feelings about getting ready for their first celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

- As an additional option, children can draw their feelings.
- · Have volunteers share their work with the group.

### Closing Blessing

- · Gather children into a prayer circle with their books.
- · Begin with the Sign of the Cross.
- · Read aloud the People of Faith story about Saint Monica.
- · Pray the prayer.

End by leading children in singing Songs of Celebration CD, track 2, "We Are Marching/Siyahamba," or one of the optional music suggestions on page 13.

# **Preparing to Celebrate**



### Respond

Write a letter In the space below, write a short letter telling God how you feel about preparing for your first celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### Closing Blessing

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross. Leader: God our Gracious Father. you welcome us as your children. Increase our faith and make us strong.

### All: Hear us, we pray.

Leader: God. our Gracious Father. you call us to change and grow. Make our light burn brighter for you.

### All: Hear us, we pray,

Leader: God. our Gracious Father. help us to know our sins and trust in your mercy.

All: Hear us, we pray.



We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God. We are marching, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, we are marching in the light of God.

# People of Faith: A Read Aloud Story

Saint Monica Monica was a Christian and she was married early in life to a pagan official who had a very violent temper. Monica's married life was not happy. Since Monica was a Christian she continued to pray and do good works. Her words and example helped many women in her town. Monica and her husband had three children. Monica's husband would not allow them to be baptized. However, Monica continued being a child of the light and, by her prayer and example, her husband became a Christian and her oldest son Augustine turned from a sinful life and became one of the most important leaders in the early Church.



# **Faith at Home**

#### Faith Focus

- . At Baptism we are called to walk in the light.
- · Sin is a choice.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation forgives sins committed after Baptism.

#### Ritual Focus Renewal of Baptismal

Promises The celebration focused on the Renewal of Baptismal Promises and sprinkling with holy water. The children renewed their baptismal promises and were sprinkled with holy water, During the week, use the text on page 12 to renew your own baptismal promises with your child and the rest of the family.

www.osvcurriculum.com it our website for weekly Scripture readings

### Act

Share Together Read Luke 19:1-10. Talk about what it must have been like for Zacchaeus to have Jesus come to his house. Point out the changes Zacchaeus made after he met Jesus. Then invite each family member to list people whose example caused some change in his or her own life. Ask each person to read the names on the list. After each name, pray together, "God bless you for being a light in our lives."

Do Together Together, think about and share the names of some people to whom your family could contribute some light and joy. Emphasize that even small things can brighten someone's day. Choose one of the people and plan what you will do to brighten his or her life.



Loving Father, we give you thanks for all the ways you make yourself known to us. Help us to continue to spread the Light of Christ in our world. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus, Amen,

### Faith at Home

Review the five parts of the Faith at Home page with children.

#### Encourage children:

- to ask family members to review the Faith Focus statements
- to share the Ritual Focus: Renewal of Baptismal Promises with family members
- to do at least one of the \*Act activities with family members
- . to pray the Family Prayer with their family at times when the family is together
- · to encourage their family members to go to www.osvcurriculum.com with them and do the activities for this chapter sometime during the week

# Looking Ahead

- For Chapter 3, you will need:
- a Rible
- · a large glass bowl filled with water
- · a candle
- · a prayer table
- the Songs of Celebration CD
- . copies of Activity Master 3 on p. CE7 for each child
- · copies of Scripture Drama 3, on pp. CE8-9 for participants