

Implementation Models

Introduction

The practices for preparing children for Reconciliation, Eucharist, and the restored order of Confirmation and First Communion are diverse and varied throughout the Catholic Church today.

The common elements of most of these practices are:

- the involvement of children and parents in some type of immediate preparation for the celebration of these sacraments
- a catechetical model that introduces the child and parent gradually and systematically to the meaning of the rites and symbols of the sacrament the child will be celebrating

What has emerged over the past few decades are structures for catechesis that are:

- family-centered
- intergenerational

The emphasis of both the *General Directory for Catechesis* and the *National Directory for Catechesis* for models of formation inspired by the baptismal catechumenate, as well as the impetus for lifelong and whole-community catechesis, has added the dimension of involving the liturgical assembly more fully in the initiation of children. This involvement includes the varying degrees of actual participation of members of the worshipping community in the preparation, from praying for the children and families to participating in intergenerational gatherings and forms of liturgical and doctrinal catechesis alongside the children and their families.

Call to Celebrate provides a series of resources for Reconciliation, Eucharist, and the restored order of Confirmation and Eucharist, which are flexibly designed to meet all of these models. *Call to Celebrate* also includes resources for the catechesis of older children for Reconciliation and Eucharist and adult catechesis on these sacraments.

Models

Traditional Classroom Model

- Children are taught in groups by catechists in a parish religious education setting or in a Catholic school. (**Materials:** *Child's Book, Catechist Edition, Songs of Celebration* CD)
- Catechists are oriented and trained by the DRE or Sacramental Coordinator who oversees the program. (**Materials:** *Sacraments Source Book, Stories of Celebration* Video and Guide, *Catechist Edition*)
- Parents and/or family members are provided with a *Family Guide*, and may or may not attend gatherings for orientation and ongoing catechesis. (**Materials:** *Family Guide, Sacraments Source Book*)
- Children and/or families participate in a child or family retreat. (**Materials:** *Sacraments Source Book*)

Child-Centered Model (Neighborhood)

- Neighborhood children meet in a catechist's home or another location other than the school or parish. (**Materials:** *Child's Book, Catechist Edition, Songs of Celebration* CD)
- Catechists are oriented and trained by the DRE or Sacramental Coordinator who oversees the program. (**Materials:** *Sacraments Source Book, Stories of Celebration* Video and Guide, *Catechist Edition*)
- Parents and/or family members are provided with a *Family Guide*, and may or may not attend gatherings for orientation and ongoing catechesis. (**Materials:** *Family Guide, Sacraments Source Book, People of Faith: Generations Learning Together Celebrating the Sacraments* magazine*, *Songs of Celebration* CD*)
- Children and/or families participate in a child or family retreat. (**Materials:** *Sacraments Source Book*)

* optional resource

Parent-Child Home Model

- Parents and/or family members attend orientation and most or all of the parent-family meetings. (**Materials:** *Sacraments Source Book*)
- Parents and/or family members facilitate preparation sessions at home. (**Materials:** *Family Guide, Child's Book, Songs of Celebration CD, People of Faith: Generations Learning Together Celebrating the Sacraments* magazine*)
- Children and/or families participate in a child or family retreat. (**Materials:** *Sacraments Source Book*)

Family Cluster Model

- Parents and/or family members attend orientation and most or all of the parent meetings. (**Materials:** *Sacraments Source Book*)
- Families meet in neighborhood clusters, and various parents or family members lead the sessions. (**Materials:** *Sacraments Source Book, Child's Book, Songs of Celebration CD, and Family Guide*)
- Parents and/or family members participate in Faith at Home activities. (**Materials:** *Family Guide, Child's Book, Songs of Celebration CD, People of Faith: Generations Learning Together Celebrating the Sacraments* magazine*)
- Children and/or families participate in a child or family retreat. (**Materials:** *Sacraments Source Book*)

Intergenerational Model

- Parents and/or family members attend orientation and most or all of the parent meetings. (**Materials:** *Sacraments Source Book*)
- Parents and/or other family members, along with children and other interested adults and families, meet together at the parish for sessions that involve a celebration and an intergenerational catechetical session (**Materials:** *Sacraments Source Book*), or adults and children meet together for

the celebration separate from the catechesis.

(**Materials:** *Sacraments Source Book, Child's Book, Catechist Edition*)

- Parents and/or family members participate in Faith at Home activities. (**Materials:** *Family Guide, Child's Book, Songs of Celebration CD**)
- Children and/or families participate in a child or family retreat. (**Materials:** *Sacraments Source Book*)

Confirmation and Eucharist: Restored Order

Call to Celebrate: Eucharist provides eight chapters in the *Child's Book* and two additional chapters in the *Catechist Edition* for those celebrating Confirmation in the restored order. These two chapters may be reproduced for the child (**Materials:** *Catechist Edition*) and may be used with any of the models described above. (**Materials:** *Sacraments Source Book*)

Adult/Parent Catechesis

All sessions of *Call to Celebrate* include the following:

- an assembly celebration or a large group celebration
- a choice of two forms of parent/adult catechetical sessions:
 - a liturgical-catechetical model that is based on the celebration itself
 - a doctrinal model that is based on the theme of the child's session

* *optional resource*