

Sunday Connection Strategies

Every time a sacrament is celebrated by an individual or a group, it deepens and celebrates the faith of the whole community. The celebration of the sacraments by children is the activity of the whole parish, not just the family, the school, or the religious education program. The following strategies will help to involve more parishioners in these special events:

- Communicate with and seek out the help of the liturgy committee, the musicians, and the art and environment committees to assist with large group celebrations as well as the celebrations in the children's sessions.
 - Explain to the Social Concerns or Justice committees the vision of the *Live and Faith at Home* activities, which involve apostolic action, and ask them to discern areas and avenues where they might provide support or ideas for children and families to implement these activities.
 - Present all the children who are preparing for sacraments at the Sunday Eucharist.
- Arrange for pictures of the children to be displayed in the church.
 - Invite parishioners or the hospitality committee to arrange a reception for the families after a Sunday Eucharist, either at the beginning of the process or at the conclusion.
 - Involve sewing groups in making banners or some other pieces of artwork for the celebration or as remembrances of the celebration.
 - Invite parishioners to become prayer partners for individual children or families. Provide them with the names of children or families, and ask them to pray for them on an ongoing basis. Suggest that they find a way through the written or spoken word to be in touch with the child or family occasionally.
 - Use the Bulletin Inserts, General Intercessions, and Parish Blessings that are found on pp. 45, 82–83, and 156–157.

