

Reconciliation

Parent Orientation

Goals

- To welcome parents and families in a hospitable environment
- To affirm the importance of parent and family participation in the process
- To introduce parents and families to the ***Call to Celebrate: Reconciliation*** program
- To inform parents and families about the parish policies and procedures relating to celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Environment

- Be sure to clearly identify the meeting place, posting clear directions if necessary.
- Tables and chairs arranged for small groups
- A prayer setting with large candle, Bible on a stand or table, and a clear bowl filled with water

Materials

- Beverages and light refreshments
- Nametags
- Copies of ***Call to Celebrate: Reconciliation Family Guide and Child's Book***
- *Songs of Celebration* CD
- *Reconciliation Stories of Celebration* video
- Copies of the following from www.osvcurriculum.com:
 - **Reconciliation Parent Orientation Handouts 1 and 2**
 - “Celebrating Rituals at Home—Letter”
 - **At Home Ritual Preparation Handouts 1–6**

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Welcome parents and other adults and distribute nametags.

Introduce yourself and briefly review the goals and agenda for the gathering.

Begin the prayer.

Light the candle and lead parents and family members in the following reflection. Pause after each question:

- *Recall the day of your child's Baptism.*
- *Where was it?*
- *Who was there?*
- *Can you recall any significant things that happened that day?*
- *Do you recall any feelings you may have had during the ceremony?*
- *Was there any moment of the ceremony of your child's Baptism that stood out as memorable for you?*

Invite parents and family members to share with one or two other persons any significant memories they may have of that day.

Distribute **Reconciliation Parent Orientation Handout 1: Parent's Prayer.**

Call the group back together. Ask the parents and family members to stand.

Lead the parents and family members in the Parent's Prayer.

View Video

Show Part 1 of the *Reconciliation Stories of Celebration* video.

Use the questions in the video guide for discussion.

Break for refreshments and conversation.

The Call to Celebrate: Reconciliation Program

Distribute the *Child's Book* and walk the parents and family members through the Table of Contents.

Point out that the program:

- introduces the child to an understanding of the Rite of Penance.
- is a preparation for a lifetime of celebrating God's forgiveness and reconciliation.
- introduces children to the sacrament through its rituals and prayers.

Use one chapter of the *Child's Book* to show parents and family members the process of a session.

Celebrate

- celebration and reflection

Remember

- proclamation and breaking open the Scripture reading
- understanding the doctrine
- learning about the ritual action of the sacrament

Live

- making connections to their lives and their families

Highlight the three Faith at Home features in the *Child's Book* and show how they will help the parents and family members to participate in the child's preparation.

Emphasize the importance of doing the activities on the Faith at Home page, especially the ritual.

Describe the *Call to Celebrate: Reconciliation Family Guide* using one of the two implementation models below.

✦ For programs where the catechesis is done in a group with a catechist and includes family support

Distribute the *Call to Celebrate: Reconciliation Family Guide*. Point out the difference in the two parts of the guide:

- the first part is for parents and family members to use for their own reflection on forgiveness, conversion, and reconciliation.
- the second part is for those who will be doing the child's preparation at home.

Mention the availability of the *Songs of Celebration* CD, which will enhance their time with the child and support the child's learning.

Emphasize that this time of assisting the child and using the *Family Guide* is an opportunity for parents and family members to grow in their own relationship with God. It will help them understand forgiveness, conversion, and reconciliation in their own lives.

Distribute Reconciliation Parent Orientation Handout 2: Frequently Asked Questions and go through it with parents and family members. Answer any other questions they may have.

Go to Parish Policies and Procedures.

✦ For programs where the catechesis is done in the home

Distribute the *Call to Celebrate: Reconciliation Family Guide*. Point out the difference in the two parts of the guide:

- the first part is for parents and family members to use for their own reflection on forgiveness, conversion, and reconciliation.
- the second part is to help these parents and family members to complete the sessions at home.

Go through one session of the *Family Guide* and show parents and family members how to use the outline. Point out:

- the parent background essay, an important piece to understanding what the session is about.
- the easy to follow overview.
- the People of Faith story for each session and the significance of telling these stories to children so they can hear and visualize how others lived out their baptismal call.

Emphasize how essential the ritual prayer is to the session. Go through the prayer as it is written in the session and talk about ways to prepare a prayer space and environment at home. Direct the parents and family members to page 14 of the *Family Guide* for tips on how to lead the ritual prayer.

Distribute Reconciliation Parent Orientation Handout 2, "Celebrating Rituals at Home—Letter," and **At Home Ritual Preparation Handouts 1–6.**

Parish Policies and Procedures

Explain the commitment the parish expects of parents and family members for this preparation.

Distribute appropriate schedules or calendars for parent meetings and other gatherings such as retreats, parish assembly gatherings, dates for the celebration, and other pertinent information.

Closing Prayer

Gather the parents and family members in a circle around the prayer space and pray together:

Let us call to mind the goodness of God who gives us all good things. I bless you with this water to remind you of your Baptism and your call to hand on the faith.

Let us join in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Pray the Lord's Prayer together.



Encourage parents and family members to go to www.osvcurriculum.com for more ideas and suggestions.