

Visiting the Reconciliation Chapel

1. Make arrangements in advance to bring your group to the parish Reconciliation chapel.
2. Explain to the children that during a Reconciliation liturgy, there are often many stations set-up around the church for people to go to the priest for absolution.
3. Tell the children that individual Reconciliation is available at particular times each week. Review the schedule for celebrating individual Reconciliation with the class. Emphasize that the Reconciliation chapel is used for individual Reconciliation.
4. Provide an opportunity for a few children at a time to go into the chapel.
5. Point out that people have a choice. They can sit so they are facing the priest. Or, they can sit so that the priest cannot see who they are.
6. If time permits, invite the children to role-play celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You can take the role of the priest and the children can take turns acting as the penitent. Emphasize that this is role-playing and only for practice.
7. Explain that Reconciliation focuses on God's forgiveness and one's desire to avoid sin and to live as Jesus asks. Help the children appreciate that God will always forgive us if we express sorrow for our sins.

