

EVERYBODY CELEBRATE!

Meeting Diverse Needs
through Multisensory
Sacramental Preparation

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Important Points About Sacramental Preparation

- What is a sacrament?
- When the celebration ends, the sign continues.
- It includes the entire parish community as a representation of the whole community of faith.

Catechesis for First Reconciliation

- begins with baptism
- presents sin honestly
 - original sin and God's plan
 - God's rules for living, who are they *really* for?
- focuses on God's unconditional love

First Reconciliation and Special Needs (U.S. Bishops' Guidelines)

- Even if the individual cannot describe the sin precisely in words, if he/she is capable of having a sense of contrition, sacramental absolution may be given
- Catholics who are deaf should confess to a priest who can communicate in ASL, or may have an interpreter of their choice
- "In the case of individuals with poor communication skills, sorrow for sin is to be accepted even if this repentance is expressed through some gesture rather than verbally."

Catechesis for First Communion

- begins with baptism
- includes catechesis on the entire mass
- is about how we are to live our lives
- should include, developmentally **and** theologically appropriate information

Child Development and the Elementary School Age Child

- Cognitive – “concrete” To learn it, I need to do it.
- Social – peers becoming more important, but parents still hold a prominent role.
- Moral -- move from pre-conventional to conventional reasoning, from punishment and obedience orientation to interpersonal norms. **Very rule-focused.**

Multiple Intelligences (Howard Gardner, 1983)

- Logical Mathematical – numbers, logic, puzzles, scientific method
- Linguistic – reading, writing, speaking, storytelling, poetry
- Musical – singing, music appreciation, composing
- Spatial – charts, graphs & diagrams, painting & drawing, photography, geometry
- Bodily-Kinesthetic – movement, skits & plays, hands-on activities, manipulatives
- Interpersonal – cooperative groups, conflict resolution, clubs
- Intrapersonal – private space, journals

Reconciliation

- Ten Commandments
TIC-TAC-TOE
- Role play of situations
- Role play of the rite

Eucharist

- Family Meal
- First Communion Game Show
- Walk-Through of Rite

Liturgy of the Eucharist Eucharist – The Road to Emmaus

- Jesus gathered with disciples to share a meal.
- Jesus recognized in the “breaking of the bread.”
- Pattern for our Mass.
 - Greeting
 - Liturgy of the Word
 - Liturgy of the Eucharist
 - Blessing and dismissal

First Communion and Special Needs: U.S. Bishops’ Guidelines

- Must be able to distinguish the Body of Christ from ordinary food, “even if this recognition is evidenced through manner, gesture, or reverential silence rather than verbally.”
- Pastors are encouraged to consult with those who know the individual well and with experts, if necessary.
- When in doubt, allow the person to receive the sacrament.

Involving Parents

- Informal communication
- Open classroom policy
- Parent newsletters
- Parent meetings
- Family preparation

- Family-centered celebration

For these and more ideas...

see the books

Teach-It: Penance and Reconciliation

Teach-It: Eucharist and the Mass

by Joseph D. White, Ph.D. and Ana Arista White

Available from Our Sunday Visitor

www.osv.com

1-800-348-2440

For more information...

www.catechistsonline.com

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