

## *We Meet Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation*

**FOCUS:** In this chapter, you will be helping your child to understand that Jesus forgives us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation when we confess our sins.

The entire Christian life is a process of reconciliation, a call for us to “put on” the mind and heart of Jesus. In the ritual of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the penitent expresses a definite desire to live more fully the Christian life and receives the encouragement and strength needed to conform his or her life to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit. Reconciliation is the work of a lifetime.

As we grow in our ability to consider, judge, and arrange our lives in the light of God’s holiness, we recognize more clearly how we fail to respond to all that God has done for us. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the warmth and tenderness of God’s love reaches out to us through the ministry of the Church.

### **Scripture in This Chapter**

Mark 2:1–12 Forgiving the Paralyzed Man

John 20:19–23 Authority to Forgive Sins

Mark 1:15 Repent and Believe

### **Catechism of the Catholic Church**

1450–1451, 1454–1460

### **In this chapter, help your child to**

- ✦ explain that he or she may choose how to go to the sacrament.
- ✦ identify the opening rites of the sacrament.
- ✦ describe how to confess sins.
- ✦ explain the meaning of penance.
- ✦ explain that in the sacrament, Jesus helps us give up selfishness and form a deeper friendship with him.
- ✦ identify an area in themselves that needs improvement in order to become a better person.

### **Words Your Child Should Know**

- ✦ confession
- ✦ penance

### **Key Terms for Your Information**

- ✦ amen—a word of agreement; yes
- ✦ beatification—a step in the process of being canonized a saint
- ✦ pardon—forgiveness for sins
- ✦ confess—to admit sins