

Jesus Calls Us His Friends

FOCUS: In this chapter, you will be helping your child to understand that God's love brings us healing and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Christ's saving Death has reconciled us to God, but our human sinfulness imposes on us a continual need to order our lives more fully in accord with God's holiness and love. In approaching the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Catholics externalize their internal desire for a deeper relationship with God and proclaim the power of his forgiving love. Although the Eucharist is the central and most meaningful sign of our reconciliation with God and with each other, the Sacrament of Reconciliation brings us face-to-face with our unique struggles against evil and facilitates a freer and fuller response to God. The value of frequent sacramental reconciliation is expressed in the opening prayer for communal celebrations:

Where sin has divided and scattered,
may your love make one again;
where sin has brought weakness,
may your power heal and strengthen;
where sin has brought death,
may your Spirit raise to new life.

Rite of Reconciliation 99

Scripture in This Chapter

Luke 10:38–42 Mary and Martha

Psalm 138:7–8 You Are with Me Always.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

1485, 1489–1490, 1496

In this chapter, help your child to

- ♦ describe through the story of Martha and Mary that friendship with Jesus is shown in prayer and loving service.
- ♦ identify the key concepts related to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- ♦ describe God's gifts to us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- ♦ demonstrate an understanding of the Sacrament of Reconciliation as presented in Unit 3.