

Rite for Reconciliation Role Play

(The following role play portrays a child celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Comments from the Narrator help the retreat participants better understand the Rite. This scenario can be reenacted three times, if needed, using the dialogue for Child 1 and Priest 1, Child 2 and Priest 2, then Child 3 and Priest 3.)

Narrator: In our role play, *(name)* will play the part of the priest and *(name)* will play the part of a child celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Watch and listen as our actors show us what it is like to celebrate this sacrament.

Child: Hello, Father. My name is *(name)*. This is the first time I am celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Narrator: Remember, when you enter the Reconciliation room, to greet the priest and tell him your name.

Priest: Welcome, *(child's name)*, I'm happy to see you. Let's make the Sign of the Cross together.

Priest and Child together: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Narrator: Then Father will say a short prayer—something like this.

Priest: May God, who has enlightened every heart, help you to know your sins and trust in his mercy.

Narrator: Then Father will ask you to talk about unloving choices you have made—unloving choices that are sins. This is called your confession. Before coming to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, think about what you will tell the priest when you make your confession. Tell him your sins and things you'd like to change so that you can better follow Jesus.

Priest: "Tell me, *(child's name)*, what is it that you would like to confess?"

Child 1: Father, I want to try to be more thoughtful and kind. It is hard for me to let others go first. It is hard for me to share.

(or)

Child 2: Father, I really like to watch TV, but my parents have a rule that I can't watch a lot of the programs. But when I'm at my friend's house, I watch these programs anyway. I want to stop doing this.

(or)

Child 3: Father, I fight with my brother a lot at home. I'd like to try not to fight so much. I know the fighting bothers my parents, and it makes my brother feel bad.

Narrator: Father will talk to you about what you want to change in your life and ask you to do something special to show Jesus how much you love him. Father may give you some suggestions about ways to change. He might ask you to do an act of kindness or say a prayer. This is called your penance.

Priest to Child 1: God understands that it is not always easy to be kind, especially if the other person is not nice to you. But God told us to love others and treat them just as we would like to be loved and treated. Pray three Hail Marys, and ask Mary, the Mother of God, to help you see the goodness in others.

(or)

Priest to Child 2: Deep down I am sure that you know that your parents make rules to protect you. They don't want you to see or hear things that might harm you. Next time you go to your friend's house, bring some games with you and play those instead of watching TV. Or, until you feel strong enough to say no to the programs you shouldn't watch, invite your friend to play at your house.

(or)

Priest to Child 3: It sounds like the fighting is causing some hard feelings between you and your brother. This week, I'd like you to do an act of kindness for him. Maybe you could do the dishes or make his bed for him as a surprise. Choose one of these things and do it for your brother.

Child 1, 2, or 3: Thank you, Father, I will do that. And I am going to try to do better.

Priest: When you leave, I'd like you to go back to your seat and take some time to think about what you are doing for your penance and when you are going to do it. Doing your penance is an important part of the sacrament. It shows your willingness to change your way of acting.

Now, tell Jesus you're sorry by praying an Act of Contrition.

Child: My God,

I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong
and failing to do good,
I have sinned against you
whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with your help,
to do penance,
to sin no more,
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ
suffered and died for us.
In his name, my God, have mercy.

Narrator: After you pray the Act of Contrition, Father will pray for you and say the words of forgiveness. This is called "absolution."

Then Father will bless you.

Priest: (makes the Sign of the Cross) I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. God bless you and go in peace.

Child: Amen. Thank you, Father.