

Starting Home

“Penitential services are gatherings of the people of God to hear God’s word as an invitation to conversion and renewal of life and as the message of our liberation from sin through Christ’s death and resurrection. The structure of these services is the same as that usually followed in the celebrations of the Word of God and given in the *Rite of Reconciliation of Several Penitents*.”

This is not the sacrament but is a gift of our Church to us to foster the spirit of penance within the Christian community, to help us prepare for individual confession and to help us all gradually form our consciences so that we recognize our failure to put the Lord at the center of our lives AND His promise that we can always begin anew when we are ready to change. (*Rite of Penance #37*)

Song: Music Video “Honest” by Francesca Battistelli

Opening Prayer

Scripture (Adapted from John 4 in contemporary English)

Reflection

An Examination of Conscience for Parents and Children

Responsibilities to God:

Have I prayed every day?

Have I prayed with my family?

Have I been moody and rebellious about praying and going to church on Sunday?

Have I asked the Holy Spirit to help me whenever I have been tempted to do something I know God does not want?

Have I asked the Holy Spirit to help me do what is right?

Responsibilities to others:

Have I been obedient and respectful to my parents; to my children?

Have I lied, even a little white lie?

Have I been arrogant, stubborn or rebellious?

Have I talked back to parents, teachers or other adults?

Have I been selfish, ignoring the needs of my parents, the children, teachers, or my friends and work mates?

Have I gotten angry at them? Have I hit anyone?

Have I held grudges or not forgiven others?

Have I been helpful and affectionate toward my family?

Adapted from Copyright, Fr. Thomas Weinandy.

Act of Repentance: Confiteor (said together-facing each other)

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Intercessions The response is “Lord, hear our prayer!”

Lord’s Prayer

Assurance of God’s Mercy in music video “Turn to Me” by Leonard Foley SJ

Dismissal