

Living the Partnership ...Making sure your child is ready for their First Holy Communion

What US Bishops tell us is essential in the *National Directory for Catechesis* (pp 127-128) and how we partner to hand on these elements.

- **Teach**
 - Eucharist in the living memorial of Christ's sacrifice for the salvation of all and the commemoration of his last meal with his disciples (both sessions and attending Mass)
 - The truths of faith regarding the Eucharist but also how from First Communion on, they can as full members of Christ's Body take part actively with the People of God in the Eucharist, sharing at the Lord's table and the community of their brothers and sisters. (First session and your reinforcement by example: attending Mass)
 - That the Holy Eucharist is the real body and blood of Christ, and that what appears to be bread and wine are actually his living body. (Session 2 will touch on this and this is yours to do at home after time here and with supplemental resources. Gradual understanding that you have to keep reinforcing.)
 - The difference between the Eucharist and ordinary bread (A bit in session 2 and home)
 - The meaning of the reception of the Holy Eucharist under both species of bread and wine (Home)
- **Develop and understanding**
 - of the Father's love (first at home, then reinforced by religious formation, worship, participation in the community of faith and works of charity and justice)
 - Of their participation in the sacrifice of Christ (Jesus calls us all to participate with him in making the world what God created it to be. He called that God's kingdom. Communion with Christ gives us what we need to make this world holy. This is covered at home, in religious education, and in every celebration of the Eucharist.)
 - Of the gift of the Holy Spirit (Session 1 and home)
- **Ensure** that they have been prepared according to their capacity, for the Sacrament of Penance prior to First Communion. Our Bishop requires preparation AND celebration before First Holy Communion. (Fall)

- **Help** children to
 - Participate actively and consciously in the Mass (Both sessions, home and attending Mass)
 - Receive Christ's Body and Blood in an informed and reverent manner (4/2 session, home and attend Mass)