

Student Panel Discussion Questions

Penance

- Do you receive this sacrament regularly? If so, how often? And, why?
- Have you ever attended a communal Reconciliation service before making an individual confession? Is this usually the way you receive the sacrament?
- What are your feelings, usually, *before* you receive this sacrament?
- What do you do to prepare yourself to receive this sacrament?
- Can you think of a particularly good experience of this sacrament that you have had? What made it especially good?
- How do you usually feel *after* receiving this sacrament?
- What was the most unusual/memorable Penance you were ever given? What did you learn from doing it?

Anointing of the Sick

- Have you received this sacrament yourself? When and why?
- Were you ever present when another person received the sacrament? Who and why?
- What do you particularly remember about the sacrament? What made an impression on you?
- Was the person who received the sacrament comforted by it? In what way?
- Were the family and friends comforted?
- Do you think that the person who received the sacrament was healed or helped in any way? Why do you feel this way?
- If you were ever seriously ill, would you like to receive this sacrament? Why?

Matrimony

- Do you know a couple whose marriage you would describe as sacramental—that is, blessed by God and a sign to others of God's love?
- What is special about their relationship?
- Share some ways this couple shows their love for each other. How do they show love to those around them?
- How do they serve others? Does their marriage help them to be of service to others in ways that you can see?
- What have you learned from the example of their marriage?
- What qualities in their marriage would you like to be present in your own marriage if you ever marry?

Holy Orders

- Do you know any priests on a personal level—a family member? A family friend? Someone you have worked with or for?
- Have you ever spoken with them about their call to the priesthood?
- What do they enjoy most about being a priest?
- What have they taught you about priests and the life of a priest?
- Has their life or work been a sign for you (or for others you know) of God's presence in the world? How?
- If you were ever to be a priest, what qualities that you see in them would you hope to have?
- Have you ever attended an ordination? What do you remember about it?

Name _____ Date _____

Sacrament of Penance Outline

The Sacrament of Penance, or Reconciliation, provides a means for forgiveness of our post-baptismal sins. Read the text section on pages 187–188 and outline each of the main elements of the sacrament as listed here.

A. Conversion: the first step in returning to God

B. Confession: telling our sins to a priest

C. Forgiveness: reminds us God imparts pardon and peace through the priest's words

D. Reconciliation: recognizes God's loving forgiveness

E. Penance: official name for the sacrament

Penance Service

Opening Reading

Happy the sinner whose fault is removed,
whose sin is forgiven.
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength withered as in dry summer heat.
Then I declared my sin to you;
my guilt I did not hide.
I said, "I confess my faults to the Lord,"
and you took away the guilt of my sin. (Ps 32:1, 4, 5)

Reflection

On your index card, write words or symbols that represent your personal reflection to the questions in each of the following areas:

- *Think first of your relationship with God.* Have you spent time with God in prayer, privately in your own home and publicly at Mass, or have you neglected him? Have you honored his name or used it carelessly? Have you trusted in his love, care, and mercy, or have you been worrying needlessly?
- *Think of your family.* Have you been a loving son or daughter, brother or sister? Have you been respectful and appropriately obedient to your parents' wishes or have you defied them? Have you quarreled needlessly with siblings out of habit? Have you refused to forgive a parent or sibling who hurt you, knowingly or accidentally?
- *Think of your responsibilities.* Have you been diligent about your studies or have you wasted time needlessly? Have you worked hard at your chores at home or done as little as you could to get by? Have you given your employer a fair effort at your job, or cheated him of your attention to your work?
- *Think of your friends.* Have you been truly caring and honest with your friends, or do you go along with whatever is being said or done to get along? Have you hurt a friend intentionally or accidentally and refused to seek forgiveness? Have you excluded others from your circle of friends?

Now look closely at the paper in your hand. God knows the meaning of every mark there. He does not want to keep this record, though. Read again the words of Psalm 32. Take your paper now and tear it up. Tear it into the tiniest pieces you can. Hold those pieces in your hand until the basket reaches you and then drop them in.

Concluding Prayer

Lord God,
you are always merciful and forgiving
whenever we turn to you and confess our sins.
Once again, we have come to you,
ready to name our failings, seeking your forgiveness.
Open our hearts so that once again we can feel your love for us
and know that you are always near.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, your son.
Amen.

Name _____ Date _____

Who Can Marry?

Read the following descriptions of couples who wish to be married in the Catholic Church. Determine whether or not it is possible for them to be married. What must each couple do before they can be validly married? If you need more information, check out the website for your diocese.

- José, forty-two, and Marina, thirty-five, wish to be married. José was married in the Church when he was twenty and divorced ten years ago. He has three children. His first wife, Angie, died of cancer three years ago. Marina has never been married. She was baptized in a Christian church as a child and has been going to Mass with José since they began dating. She believes that marriage should be a lifetime commitment and is concerned about José's divorce. José and Marina hope to have more children together.

- Kristina and George want to be married right away. George is twenty but Kristina is only seventeen. Neither has been married before and both are baptized Catholics. Kristina has been cautioned by friends that she is too young to marry but she says, "It's okay. If it doesn't work out we can always get divorced. We don't want to have children anyway, so no one will get hurt."

- Mary Ellen and Peter are in their twenties. They have been dating for three years and want to get married as soon as possible so that they can begin to raise a family. Mary Ellen is Catholic and Peter is Jewish. Neither has ever been married previously.

Name _____ Date _____

Word Search Puzzler

Find the words that match the definitions below in the grid. When you have found them all, the remaining letters will spell out a term. Write it and its definition on the lines at the bottom of the page.

D	E	A	C	O	N	S	S	N	O	C	I
N	T	C	O	H	R	A	N	O	I	N	T
I	E	E	N		E	C	N	A	N	E	P
S	M	L	F	B	C	A	N	O	E	Y	R
S	A	I	E	I	O	I	N	E	M	C	E
T	T	B	S	S	N	T	R	A	U	O	S
N	R	A	S	H	C	F	G	E	C	N	B
E	I	C	I	O	I	Y	I	C	I	T	Y
M	M	Y	O	P	L	N	G	R	T	R	T
A	O		N	O	I	U	O	O	A	I	E
R	N	F	P		A	T	T	V	I	T	R
C	Y	H	E		T	S	I	I	V	I	S
A	U	N	C	T	I	O	N	D	O	O	
S	R	E	D	R	O	Y	L	O	H	N	C
K			A	N	N	U	L	M	E	N	T

- In order for a marriage to be valid, both bride and groom must give their _____ consent.
- A successor to the Apostles, he receives the fullness of Holy Orders. _____
- The prayer by which a priest pardons a repentant sinner. _____
- The final Eucharist received before death. _____
- Images used to focus the mind in prayer. _____
- The Sacrament of Apostolic Ministry in the Service of Communion. _____
- What we confess when we receive the Sacrament of Penance. _____
- Priests who work with the bishop in service to the people. _____
- An official Church declaration that what appeared to be a Christian marriage never was. _____
- Another name for Penance, which stresses the reuniting of the sinner with God and the Christian community. _____

11. The state of being unmarried chosen by priests and religious so that they may dedicate their lives totally to Jesus Christ and God's people. _____
12. The sacrament in which Christ binds a man and woman into a lifelong covenant of love for the purpose of communion with one another and the raising of a family. _____
13. The third degree of Holy Orders; these ministers assist priests and bishops. _____
14. Heartfelt sorrow for having committed sin with the intention not to sin again. _____
15. The sacrament of healing through which Christ forgives sinners. _____
16. The old Latin name for the Anointing of the Sick was *extreme* _____.
17. Another name for Penance, which stresses the importance of naming and admitting our sins to another. _____
18. Having more than one spouse at a time. _____
19. In the sacrament of healing, which aids people in time of physical or mental illness and suffering, the priest will _____ the forehead of sufferer with oil.
20. Seven special signs and means of God's grace given to the Catholic Church to aid in her service to God's People. _____
21. A civil decree that the legal bonds of marriage between two people have been severed. _____

The remaining letters in the puzzle spell out:

The definition is:
