

## Preparing a Child for First Communion

### General comments:

- Preparation begins in the home and within the family since families support Christian and human values that form a child's understanding of Eucharist.
- Families participate in the Eucharist in order to understand more fully its value for one's life and to experience the liturgical prayer of the assembly.
- Parents, Catechetical Leaders and Catechists together determine when children have reached the age of reason and are ready to receive Communion for the first time.
- The Pastor has a responsibility to determine the readiness of each child.
- Parents have the right and duty to be involved in preparing their children for First Communion.
- Parents also grow in their understanding and appreciation of the Eucharist in order for them to catechize their children effectively.
- Catechesis on the Mass, provided in systematic parish catechetical programs, is an indispensable part of preparation of children for reception of Communion.
- Catechesis should help children participate actively and consciously in the Mass.

### The child, through good catechesis

- understands that the Eucharist is the living memorial of Christ's sacrifice for the salvation of all and it commemorates Jesus' last meal with his disciples.

- understands the truths of faith regarding the Eucharist.
- sees that they can now take part actively with God's people in the Eucharist, sharing with the people at the Lord's table.
- sees the need to be baptized and is prepared to receive First Reconciliation before First Communion.
- understands God's love, Jesus' sacrifice and the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- understands that "the Holy Eucharist is the real body and blood of Christ" and that bread and wine are his living body (Real Presence).
- sees the difference between Communion and ordinary bread.
- understands the meaning of receiving both the bread and wine and sees the value of participating actively and consciously in the Mass.
- receives Christ's Body and Blood in an informed and reverent manner.

*Learning about this sacrament is on-going. Children have the rights to a fuller catechesis each year.*

*Adapted from the NDC, page 126-128.*

# Preparing to Celebrate First Eucharist

<b>General Concepts</b>					
God's Creation					
The Gift of Family					
The Holy Trinity					
The Creed					
The Significance of Baptism					
The Church Family					
Unconditional Love					
Liturgy of the Word					
Liturgy of the Eucharist					
Jesus in the Eucharist					
Community					
Service to Others					
<b>Prayers</b>					
Sign of the Cross					
Our Father					
Hail Mary					
Glory Be					
Grace Before and After Meals					
Liturgical Responses					



Draw a happy face in the box when you talk about each concept!

## Some Scripture to Read Together

John 6:1-14...Loaves and Fishes

Acts 2:42-44...Breaking of the Bread

Matthew 26:26-28...The Last Supper

John 15:1-5...I Am the Vine

Mark 4:1-9...Rocky Ground

Ephesians 5:1-2, 8-10...Living in Love

Matthew 4:18-22...Jesus Calls His Disciples

Matthew 28:16-20...Go and Make Disciples



Do you know what these words mean?

Creed Eucharist Easter service

communion God's life in me = grace

baptism holiness sacrifice

peace Apostles Holy Spirit

Kingdom of God Body of Christ

Liturgy of the Word Liturgy of the Eucharist

Gospel sacraments

homily disciples

resurrection

