

## **RECONCILIATION - CRITERIA FOR READINESS**

### **1. Physical/Psychological Readiness**

a. Able to reflect on his/her own attitudes and actions. This involves the capacity to become calm, to quiet down, to think about one's actions, if only over short periods of times to try to determine, as far as possible, why one acted in a certain way.

b. Able to make appropriate choices. This involves the capacity to make choices among options in simple matters, to understand when such a deliberate choice has been made and to distinguish between an intentional action and an accidental one.

c. Able to understand the effect of his/her actions on others. This involves the capacity to realize the impact of one's actions on others and to have at least a simple realization that one's actions or omissions can have far reaching effects.

d. Willingness to receive the sacrament. This involves a desire on the child's part to participate in this preparation and to receive the sacrament with the reverence appropriate to his/her age.

### **2. Moral Readiness**

a. Able to know the difference between right and wrong this involves the capacity to act in a loving fashion to discern the right or wrong of simple actions or omissions, and to know when one has made a loving or selfish choice.

b. Able to take pride in or to regret his/her actions. This involves the capacity to delight in the gifts and talents God has given one and to use these well and to express sorrow for actions and omissions which have been harmful to oneself or others.

c. Able to begin to distinguish between "wrong" and "sin". This involves the capacity, in at least a rudimentary fashion, to distinguish when something is objectively wrong, but perhaps not sinful, and when something is sinful because of the intention of the individual. (Knowledge and consent vs. ignorance or accident)

d. Able to make amends. This involves the capacity to make up for one's hurtful actions or omissions and to resolve to change one's behavior in the future to avoid repeating such behavior.

### **3. Catechetical Readiness**

a. Able to understand Church affiliation. This involves the capacity to be aware of one's belonging to the Christian community through Baptism and to understand, to some degree at least, that individuals are responsible for the welfare of others.

b. Able to relate to Jesus as one who forgives. This involves the capacity to know and reflect on the Gospel stories of Jesus as one who loves, forgives and teaches us how to live in love. e.g. The parables of the Good Samaritan, Prodigal Son., Unforgiving Servant, Lost Sheep, etc.

(OVER)

**4. Liturgical Readiness**

a. Able to pray and worship. This involves the capacity to respond with praise and thanks to a loving Creator who wants the child to be happy and the capacity to participate with as much reverence and understanding as possible in the liturgical celebration of the community.

b. Able to understand the sacramental rites. This involves the capacity to understand the rite of the sacrament and the meaning of the event and to participate in the celebration according to his/her age and ability.

(9/09)