

Chapter 20 Healing and Forgiveness

Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners. *Mark 2:17*

To the Parents:

In chapter 20, your child learned the following:

- The sacraments of Penance and Anointing of the Sick continue the healing ministry of Jesus and the Apostles.
- A person's capacity to receive forgiveness mirrors his or her capacity to offer it to others.
- The sacraments of Penance and Anointing of the Sick have firm scriptural foundations.

In the sacraments of Penance and Anointing of the Sick, the Church celebrates the healing of body and spirit when the actions of Jesus are recalled in ritual form. Through the goodness and mercy of God, the sacraments of healing restore broken relationships and bring hope to broken bodies. No one is without need of healing, and the model of Jesus forgiving the woman caught in adultery is no less compelling than his healing of the lepers, the lame, and the blind.

The sacraments of healing are intended for all those who seek forgiveness and hope. As individuals and as a community, Catholics experience the compassion and mercy of God in the words, gestures, and prayers of the sacramental liturgies. Thus strengthened in body and spirit, their mission is then to proclaim their faith in Jesus as the one who cures and reconciles all people with one another. They use Jesus as a model for caring for the sick and dying, consoling the bereaved, and forgiving those who have harmed them in any way.

With Your Child:

1. Read about the woman with a hemorrhage (*Mark 5:25–34*) and talk about the passage.
2. As a family, reflect on your sins, and then celebrate the sacrament of Penance at your parish.
3. Think of common actions that offend people, and then list reactions that promote forgiveness, not anger.
4. Read about Saint Pio of Pietrelcina on the Review and Explore page.