

Chapter 19

***A Reconciling Community***

If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing.

*1 John 1:9*

**For the Parent:**

In chapter 19 your child learned to:

- Suggest ways to make things right in sinful situations
- List and explain the four essential aspects of Reconciliation
- Be prepared to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation

Sometimes it is difficult to see ourselves as we really are. We have a huge stake in protecting ourselves against all suggestions that we may not be quite as good as we think we are. Maybe we suffer from a lack of courage. Whatever it is, it keeps us from seeing the truth.

Humility is the virtue of seeing the truth about ourselves. It is a prerequisite for reconciliation, forgiveness, and healing. The sacrament of Penance requires that we confront our weaknesses, our brokenness, and our sinfulness.

Our sins are never private. They hurt our relationships with other people and with the Church.

**With Your Child:**

1. Find out when your parish celebrates the sacrament of Reconciliation. Decide when you will go together as a family to celebrate the sacrament. Write the date and time on the calendar. Help each other remember.
2. Design a poster listing the steps in making a change for the better. You may wish to list these steps: Think about what you have done wrong. Say, "I'm sorry." Find a way to do better. Practice better ways to act.
3. Read about Saint Charles Lwanga on the Review and Explore page.