

Anna and Ramon's First Communion

Use this story to help the children become more familiar with what happens at First Communion.

Anna and Ramon are sitting in church. They are smiling. Today is a special day. It is the day of Anna and Ramon's First Communion.

Anna and Ramon look around. Their mother and father are there, and their grandmother and grandfather. Their brothers and sister, even their aunts and uncles and cousins, are there.

Now, the priest, the altar servers, and others come up the aisle to begin Mass. As they walk toward the altar, all the people stand up.

The priest goes to his chair. He holds out his arms and says, "Today we are happy because at this Mass, Anna and Ramon are making their First Communion." Anna and Ramon feel excited.

Anna and Ramon and all the people sit down and listen to the reading from the Bible. Anna and Ramon do not understand everything. But they know that they are hearing God's Word. Then, everyone stands and the priest reads the Gospel. Anna and Ramon listen carefully. The Gospel tells how Jesus fed the people. Anna and Ramon know this story. They like to hear about Jesus helping people.

After the priest has talked to the people, he asks them to pray. One of the things that they pray is "that Anna and Ramon and all of us will try to love on another because we all share in the Body and Blood of Jesus in Holy Communion."

The time comes when Anna and Ramon and their parents bring the bread and wine to the altar. Anna very carefully holds the dish with the hosts, the bread. Ramon holds the small bottles of water and wine. Their mother and father walk up with them. The children carry these things to the altar and give them to the priest. He smiles at them and says, "Thank you."

Soon, after some prayers, the priest holds up the host and says, "This is my Body." Anna remembers that she carried the hosts to the altar. She is glad that she could help in this way. When the priest holds up the cup, Ramon remembers that he carried the wine to the altar. When the priest says, "This is my Blood," Anna and Ramon know that

the bread and wine that they carried up to the altar are no longer bread and wine, but are now the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

Anna and Ramon feel good as they say the Lord's Prayer with all the people. They know the prayer so well. Ramon thinks of his First Communion as he says, "Give us this day our daily bread."

The priest says, "Now, let us give each other the Sign of Peace." Anna knows that this is the time for all the people in the church to greet each other with a handshake or hug and to share Christ's peace with all those around them.

Finally, the great moment comes. It is time for Anna and Ramon to receive Holy Communion. Anna and Ramon and their parents walk to the altar. Anna is first. She holds one hand open on top of her other hand, creating a throne for Christ. The priest says, "The Body of Christ." Anna answers, "Amen." By "Amen," Anna means, "I really believe." Then the priest places the Host in Anna's hand, and Anna places the Host in her mouth. She blessed herself.

Then, Ramon receives Communion, too. The priest says, "The Body of Christ." Ramon answer, "Amen," and the priest places the Host in Ramon's hand.

Next, the priest hands Anna and then Ramon the cup. He says, "The Blood of Christ." Again, they both answer, "Amen," and drink from the cup.

Anna and Ramon wait for their parents each to receive the Host and to drink from the cup. Then, they all go back to their pew and the rest of the congregation receives Holy Communion. Anna and Ramon pray to Jesus, thanking him of the wonderful gift of Holy Communion. They say, "I love you, Jesus!" Then, they join in singing the Communion song with the rest of the people. Anna watches all the people receiving Communion. Ramon looks at all their family members who have come to celebrate this day with them. They feel that now they really belong.