

Getting Ready for Chapter 14

Take Home



The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Learning to say “I’m sorry” and learning to say “You’re forgiven” are two important lessons that families pass on to their children. Some people find it very difficult to ask for or seek forgiveness. Others find it easy to say the words but don’t really understand the meaning behind them. The Church gives us a wonderful opportunity to experience God’s forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

ACTIVITY

Forgiveness Chart Write the name of each person in your family on a sheet of paper. Keep a record this week of how many times you have a disagreement with each person by placing a mark next to that person’s name. Cross out the mark when you or the person who hurt you says, “I’m sorry.”

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

During the Penitential Rite, pray in a special way for those in your family who can’t let go of their anger.

On the Web

www.blestarewe.com



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

Saint of The Week



Saint John Vianney
(1786–1859)

Saint John Vianney was a French priest. His study for the priesthood was extremely difficult for him and he was eventually ordained because of his good will. He was sent to a poor, remote parish, where he served for forty years.

Patron Saint of: parish clergy
Feast Day: August 4



**A Prayer
for the
Week**

Lord, learning can be so demanding at times. Lift us up, Lord, and encourage us. Like Saint John Vianney, may we continue to learn how to forgive others as you have forgiven us.
Amen.

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Scripture Background

In the Early Church

Confession Early Christians who committed serious crimes such as murder or adultery had to confess their sins and do public penance. Often their act of penance lasted for years. Beginning in the seventh century, confessions became private. Irish missionaries introduced this practice, which allowed for the priest to forgive mortal and venial sins in Christ's name. In the sixteenth century, small rooms called confessionals became a common sight in Catholic churches.

In the Gospels we learn that Jesus often forgave sins.
Read Matthew 9:1–8.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Literature

Confessions Saint Augustine is a saint whose story reveals a sinner who turned to the Lord and turned away from sin. After living a worldly life, he converted to Catholicism at the age of thirty-three. He became one of the most important voices the Church has ever heard. His autobiographical book, entitled *Confessions*, contains the famous quote about searching for God: "You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."