

To Teach as Jesus Did

A pastoral message on Catholic education written in 1972 by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops

“Proclaiming the Gospel is a perennial task and joy for the church of Jesus Christ. Rarely if ever has it been more pressing a need, more urgent a duty, and more ennobling a vocation than in these times when mankind stands poised between unprecedented fulfillment and equally unprecedented calamity.”

“The educational mission of the church is an integrated ministry embracing three interlocking dimensions: the message revealed by God which the Church proclaims; fellowship in the life of the Holy Spirit; and service to the Christian community and the entire human community.” Message-Community-Service

“While it was relatively easy in more stable times for parents to educate their children and transmit their values to them, the immense complexity of today’s society makes this a truly awesome task. Without forgetting then, that **parents are the first to communicate the faith to their children and to educate them**, the Christian community must make a generous effort today to help them fulfill their duty.”

Confession	Penance	Reconciliation
1. Telling sins to priest	Changing one’s life	Coming back together with God and others
2. Involving individual and priest	Involving individual and God	Involving individual, community, and God
3. Centering on law	Centering on change	Centering on celebration
4. Priest “hearing” confession-acting as judge	Priest assisting and affirming conversion	Priest concelebrating with individual and community
5. Stressing the negative-wrongdoing	Stressing shift from negative to positive	Stressing the positive-building up of the Kingdom
6. Initiative coming from the individual	Initiative coming from God	Initiative coming from God through the community
7. Implying observance of laws	Implying inner experience that leads to change	Implying celebration of inner and shared experience

Do you have a . . .	Do you as a family . . .
Crucifix	Pray before meals
Picture of Jesus	Pray before bedtime
Picture of Mary	Celebrate holidays at Church
Bottle of holy water	Worship regularly
Nativity set	Have a ritual for forgiveness
Family Bible	Visit extended family
Rosary	Pray devotions - Pray the rosary
Prayer book	Spiritual Reading
Christian music CD	Volunteer in the Church, community
Christmas music CD	Visit the cemetery
Sacred image in your car, boat	Talk about movies, TV, FORMED, music, social media
Sacred space in your home	Eat meals together



Act of Contrition

**O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You.
I detest all my sins because of Your just punishments,
but most of all because they offend You my God,
Who are all- good and deserving of all my love.
I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace,
to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life.
Amen**

**** Please help your child practice and memorize this prayer for their First Confession. Thank you!***