

## First Reconciliation Retreat

9:00 am-12:00 pm

(This retreat was received from **Tina Meyer**. I adapted some things for my needs.)

A parent or adult must accompany every student

9:00 am—(Hand out sheets with stations listed) Welcome (Have nametags available); Opening prayer; Introduce the Forgiving Hearts Retreat—explain there are 8 stations in this retreat and that parents/students can work at them at their own pace, except for the video. Ask them to check off the activities as they complete them and evaluate the activity, so the retreat can be improved.

Before everyone goes to watch the video, have some small gravel stones available in a bowl and ask all to select a rock. After all have a gravel stone, direct them that this stone represents sin in our lives and on our souls. So everyone should put their stone into one of their shoes. They will be able to remove it after they receive their First Reconciliation.

I call the children by me and they sit on the floor while I read the story of the Prodigal Son from a Children's Bible. We discuss what happened with emphasis on the forgiveness of the Father, and repentance of the Son and the joy of the Father—giving his son among other things, A RING for his finger.

9:20 am—Start the video, "A Child's First Penance" with Fr. Jim Deiters. ( With discussion, this takes about 20 minutes). When the video is done, everyone can work on the other 7 stations. (Some parents/students get through all the stations before the others, so I provide some extra pages about Reconciliation—puzzle or worksheet types, or pictures to color that have to do with forgiveness.

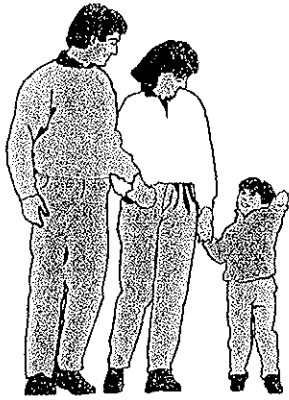
10:40 am—We go into church and Fr. does a teaching on Reconciliation, referring again to the Prodigal Son story. He gives a tour of the Confessional and explains how Reconciliation will take place.

I hand out simplified forms of examination of conscience and "How to go to confession" sheets for parents to help their students with as they wait for their turn to receive Reconciliation.

11:10 am—Reconciliation takes place for all students and any parents who would like to receive the Sacrament. (In the Confessional, I have placed Reconciliation rings, so after their Confession, Fr. hands each student a ring for their finger). Students and parents can take the rock out of their shoe when they come out of the confessional and put it in the container provided to represent sin removed from our souls and our lives.

Refreshments are available when the students are done—a "party" of cookies, snacks, milk and juice. Parents/students are free to stay as long as they want, or to leave.

12:00 pm—End of Retreat



# Forgiving Hearts Experience

Put an "x" or  in the "check off list" box for each activity that you do.

ACTIVITY	Check off	Evaluate the Activity		
		Good	Fair	Poor
1. Gathering & Welcome				
2. Cross craft				
3. Broken Heart Craft				
4. Reading a story				
5. Family Report Card				
6. Love notes				
7. Role play confession				
8. Hall of Hearts				
9. Video				
10. Closing				

*Other comments about today:*

Thank you for taking time out of your busy daily schedule to come to this morning. We hope you had another chance to share your own faith with your child, and that you had some special one on one time together. Thank you for making your 'retreat' from daily life to talk about forgiveness. May God bless you!



## Hall of Hearts

**Walk this hallway and read the Bible  
verse on each heart. Then look at the  
flip side and answer the question together.**

**If you don't know the answer, be sure to  
ask someone so you can find the answer.**

**Now walk the hall of hearts!**

## EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

### I THINK ABOUT THE TIMES I DIDN'T FOLLOW JESUS

1. Have I remembered to pray to God every day?
2. Have I said God's name in a bad or unkind way?
3. Do I worship God at Mass on Sunday?
4. Have I disobeyed my parents or other adults who take care of me?
5. Have I been angry or mean to anyone?
6. Have I done anything to hurt my own or someone else's body?
7. Have I taken anything that belongs to someone else?
8. Have I always told the truth?
9. Have I been jealous of what others own?
10. Have I been jealous of another person's family or lifestyle?