

Chapter 20

Reconciliation

God has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:18

For the Parents:

In chapter 20 your child learned to:

- Identify ways he or she can be forgiving as God is forgiving
- Explain that the sacrament of Reconciliation celebrates God's forgiveness
- Relate their understanding of personal forgiveness and the celebration of reconciliation

Is there a family member, a friend, a colleague, or a student that has a way of getting under your skin? Do you find yourself avoiding interaction with this person? You may have let a miscommunication go unresolved, or the two of you may have conflicting personalities. We all have relationships that are, for a variety of reasons, less than what they should be. But how far do we let our discontent go?

Anger festers. It can grow worse until it becomes an open wound that will not heal. This type of anger is sinful. Instead of living as Christ taught us, we assume a destructive burden of resentment that affects all of our relationships. Eventually the resentment takes over, and we are no longer happy. Instead of members of the one Body of Christ, we may alienate others or ourselves from the community. Unleashing the burden of anger is not easy, but God gives us the grace to accomplish the task in the sacrament of Reconciliation.

With Your Child:

1. Practice words and actions that show forgiveness by promising to do this: to make up after arguments and to not hold grudges.
2. Read about Saint Stephen on the Review and Explore page.