

Program Vision and Philosophy

Read and Reflect

As your parish implements *Encounter with Christ*, your leaders are committed to giving you a comprehensive and personal experience in Sacrament preparation. Ongoing formation assists you in preparing and accompanying the children and families you serve.

The following section of this document includes reflection activities and questions based on the *Program Vision and Philosophy* essay that can be found on pages CG6-CG13 in the Catechist Guide. Read excerpts from this essay that are included in this document and write your responses for each activity or question. Refer to your responses for later discussion or complete as instructed by your catechetical leader.

For Reflection

The first and fourth principles of the vision and philosophy for *Encounter with Christ* focus on the theological foundations of the program. They help us to focus on the Sacraments as experiences. We are offered an experience of Christ present through the power of the Holy Spirit.

First Principle: *Encounter with Christ* centers on the encounter with Jesus Christ and our immersion into his Paschal Mystery.

Fourth Principle: *Encounter with Christ* provides opportunities for children, parents, and catechists to encounter and contemplate the mystery of our faith, especially through studying and reflecting on Sacred Scripture.

- Express your understanding of these principles. Remember that there are also formation videos on the website that may help you to grasp these mysteries of our faith.

Second Principle: *Encounter with Christ* comprehensively and systematically presents Church teaching in relation to the Sacraments.

When making immediate preparation for the Sacraments, the Church asks us to focus on the prayers, gestures, and signs and symbols of the rites. This will help the children open their hearts to the gift of grace that God offers. The young people will be able to touch the mystery of his great love.

- What are your hopes for the children and their families as you journey with them in preparation?

Third Principle: *Encounter with Christ* evangelizes and calls families to a fuller understanding of the practice of the Sacraments through learning together, celebrating the Sacraments with the parish, and living out and celebrating the Catholic faith in the home and in the community.

- Keeping in mind the need to help parents meet Christ, name some specific thoughts you have about including the parents in your faith formation journey with their children.

- How might you creatively use the family resources provided in this program to make sure they are getting into the hands and hearts of the parents?

Fifth Principle: *Encounter with Christ* encourages a life of discipleship through multisensory and developmentally appropriate methodology.

- Look through your Catechist Guide and find examples of how ***Encounter with Christ*** uses methodologies that connect deeper understanding of content with the conversion of heart and faithful loving. Write two examples in the space below.

Sixth Principle: *Encounter with Christ* celebrates the unity and diversity of our Church by including culturally diverse experiences, imagery, and activities that assist in the inclusion of children with special needs.

- Look through the child's book and note the images, practices, and religious or cultural customs that are referenced. If you have access to a computer, look on the website as well. Find two specific examples you can cite in the space below.