

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

On a table near the entrance to the church or the reconciliation room or the confessionals, provide:

- Copies of the most recent issue of the Parish Sunday Bulletin (April 3)
- The schedule of the parish celebrations for Holy Week and Easter (if available)
- Other information on your parish and its activities, including Stations of the Cross, Lenten meals, etc.
- Information about the RCIA
- Information about sacramental preparation (e.g., baptism, first communion, first confession, confirmation and marriage)
- Copies of the brochure *Return to me with all your heart. Encountering Christ through reconciliation*. (Colour copies were sent to each parish for distribution; a black and white version is in the e-mail package to the parish if further copies are needed)

For the reconciliation room or confessionals

- Make sure the Reconciliation Room is in good order, free from clutter, such as hymnals, pamphlets, papers, etc.
- Make certain the Reconciliation Room or the Confessionals are well lit
- Provide a copy of the Act of Contrition or a prayer of sorrow for sin in the Reconciliation Room or the Confessionals; if producing this in-house, use a large type-font
- Place a new box of tissues in the Reconciliation Room or on the table near the Confessionals

Hospitality

- Invite people: Put a sign (or signs) up outside the church
- Arrange for a few members of the parish to be in the church throughout the entire time confessions are being heard, praying for the grace of reconciliation during the scheduled confession time; these should be located at a discreet distance from the Reconciliation Room or Confessionals, but clearly in sight
- Arrange that members of the pastoral staff (i.e., permanent deacon, pastoral minister, coordinator of youth ministry) are on-hand throughout the day, quietly available as a welcoming presence for those who might visit, understanding that some coming to confession may be dealing with difficult issues
- If appropriate, consider offering some hospitality (coffee/refreshments) in a side room during the time confession is available
- Create a welcoming environment. An hour or so before confession, turn the heat and lights on so it is warm in the church. Turn the lights on over the altar and tabernacle and light candles. If possible, pipe religious music *very softly* through the PA system
- Parishes with one priest and two church buildings should seek the assistance of a priest in special ministry or a priest who is retired and able to help. Arrangements for help should be made well in advance of the scheduled date. Please consult with the Director of Priest Personnel if you need assistance