

Getting Ready for Chapter 6

Take Home



We Celebrate God's Forgiveness

One of the great joys of Christian life is that we can always trust in God's mercy. When we ask for God's mercy and are forgiven, we are reconciled to God. Even though we turn away from God when we sin, God never turns away from us. He is always ready to welcome us back.

ACTIVITY

Pretzels Buy some frozen bread dough and thaw it. With your child, break off small pieces and roll them into ropes. Form a loop and then bring the ends of the loop up and cross them. Sprinkle salt on the pretzels and bake them. Share with your child that the pretzel shape represents an attitude of prayer, with arms crossed.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

During the prayer before Communion, "Lord, I am not worthy....," remember that God is always ready to forgive.

On the Web

www.blestarewe.com



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

Saint of The Week



Saint Edith Stein
(1891–1942)

Edith Stein converted from Judaism to Catholicism and became a Carmelite nun. She was captured by the Nazis and taken to Auschwitz where she helped others until her death. She was canonized in 1998.

Patron Saint of: World Youth Day
Feast Day: August 9



A Prayer for the Week

I'm sorry, Lord,
for the things
I have done to hurt
others. Help me forgive
others when they hurt
me. Merciful God, I
trust in your love and
forgiveness. Amen.



Scripture Background

In the Time of the Early Church

Reconciliation Reconciliation most often refers to the new relationship between God and humanity brought about by Christ's redemptive acts. Through Christ's death on the cross, humanity achieves peace with God. In many of Paul's letters, the idea of reconciliation goes beyond God and the individual to include the reconciliation of Jew and Gentile. Paul further describes a need for reconciliation of the world with God.

You can read a description of reconciliation in Romans 5:8–11.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Interfaith Relations

Jewish-Catholic Relations Pope John Paul II apologized to the Jewish people for the prejudice some Catholics have shown them throughout history. He asked the Jews for forgiveness. This was an important decision. The Pope was speaking as the head of the Catholic Church, in the name of all its members. In speaking to all of the Jewish people, he apologized for all the injustices inflicted upon the Jews by any Catholic people. It was an important move toward reconciliation between two peoples who worship the same God.