

Homily Hints

The Big Question:

“How can I recognize God in my life?”

Chapter Goals:

1. to understand that, through the sacraments, God shares his life and love with us
2. to appreciate the gift of the sacraments and their importance for us as members of the Body of Christ, the Church
3. to respond to the gift of the sacraments by participating in them with faith and living what we celebrate.

Homily Hints:

Begin your conversation by telling a story about receiving an unexpected gift that became special to you. Share some history about the gift. Do you still have it? Who gave it to you? Explain to the young people that a true gift is given freely, out of love, with no strings attached. Usually we receive gifts from or give to someone with whom we share a relationship.

Direct the conversation to a discussion of the sacraments as God’s gifts to us. The sacraments are gifts from God that show how he shares his life and love with us freely. What we are asked in return for these gifts is that we participate in them and live out what they mean. Discuss the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Penance as examples. When we participate in the Sacrament of the Eucharist with others in our faith, we are nourished as members of the community. The Sacrament of Reconciliation helps us find peace of mind and heart. For many young people participation in the Sacrament of Penance can be an instrument of healing relationships with friends and family. These gifts, the sacraments, are ways we can recognize God in our lives.

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