

## Round Table Discussion, Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>

### Topic: First Penance

#### Notes:

- Some parishes are opting to move First Penance closer to First Holy Communion in April /May 2021, with the hope that the current situation will be not as severe.
- Preparation for First Penance
  - Resources were updated to [this webpage](#) for access to some of the ideas shared.
  - Sue Hodgkiss from Nativity in Fair Haven NJ
    - Hybrid approach: She had virtual sessions in Zoom for the student and parent together. The session lasted about 45 minutes; started with a story from scripture, with a short conversation to follow, uploaded follow up work for the parent/student in google classroom.
    - These students received First Penance over the last few weeks, the Pastor set up times on a Saturday for them to receive the sacrament and handed the priest [this sheet](#) to assist Sue with who received.
  - Multiple parishes use [Blessed](#) to assist with the preparation
  - Catholic Brain has resources and a program for First Penance – a subscription is needed. There is a discount that is available through the end of the year.
  - John McGuire, PCL St. Paul's Princeton NJ offered the idea to record the liturgical celebration for First Penance and send it to the families to watch prior to attending their First Penance.
  - Lisa Limongello, PCL, Hopewell Valley: Parents meet with the Deacons for formation, she is collaborating with the Deacon and running a virtual retreat for parents that will consist of logistics and prayer. They are offering 4 dates/times for parents to bring their children to First Penance and are using a sign up to keep the numbers low in each time slot.

Please continue to talk to one another and share ideas on how best to serve the families in your parish. Perhaps the December TRED meetings will be focusing on follow up from these topics or email your Cluster Rep to suggest a topic. In addition, I can offer more round tables, if you have a suggestion, please email me.