

**THE SACRAMENTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH:
SEVEN SACRED ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS CHRIST
SESSION II: PARTICIPANT HANDOUT**

Chapter I: Father Banecker recalls memories of his First Penance and First Holy Communion.
What is one of your memories and why?

Chapter II: Fr. Banneker explains the word, concupiscence, as the material effects of original sin, that is, our natural human attraction towards words, thoughts and deeds which take us away from God and living the Christian life. From your observations, what are the most damaging contemporary “attractions” today that confuse, mislead and/or put up roadblocks for the growth of your students’ spiritual development?

Chapter III: Often other Christians and many Catholics use the excuse that they don’t need to confess their sins to a person; they can do so directly to God. Using the Synoptic Gospels as a source, how would you explain that the Sacrament of Penance is an encounter with Jesus Christ through the person of the priest?

In preparing your students to receive the Sacrament of Penance, how would you describe the healing graces of the Sacrament?

Chapter IV: Reflect upon these words of St Augustine from an Easter homily regarding the reception of Holy Communion: “Behold Who you Are; become Who you receive!” How can this understanding of self-identity in Christ, that is, each person’s “Imago Christi,” help students to understand their dignity in and need for Christ in the Eucharist?

Chapter V: Members of other Christian communities are often offended that they are not invited to “take Communion” in the Catholic Church. How would you explain this teaching of the Church to your students especially knowing that the word, “Amen” (that is, “yes” or “I agree”) is spoken upon the reception of the Body of Christ?

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION III:

Read the Bread of Life discourse in John 6: 46-69 at: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/john/6>

This Gospel is the basis for the Catholic Church’s teaching on Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and transubstantiation. Give a concrete and age-appropriate example that you would teach and model to your students which shows great reverence to the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. *Be prepared to share your answer.*