The Sacraments of the Catholic Church:

Seven Sacred Encounters with Jesus Christ

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Share what touched your heart the most from this week's presentation and why it affected you as it did?*
2. *As a teacher of the Catholic faith, how do you model the hands, the feet, the eyes, the body of Christ to your students? Give a concrete example.*

Chapter 1

NOTES:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *What memories do you recall from your First Penance and First Holy Communion?*
2. *What relationship do these memories have to a personal encounter with Jesus?*

Chapter 2

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Concupiscence is the material effects of original sin – sickness, death, a weakened intellect and will – which predisposes us towards sin and a turning away from God and living the Christian life. The struggle for holiness is a battle against concupiscence. What are some of the contemporary "attractions" that lead us to sin?*
2. *What can be done to strengthen us in holiness so that we can better resist the effects of concupiscence and temptations to sin?*

Chapter 3

NOTES:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *If you receive the sacrament of Reconciliation regularly, why do you go and how does it benefit you? If you don't receive the sacrament regularly, what keeps you from doing so?*
2. *Why is confessing our sins to a priest essential for forgiveness? How might you explain the need to confess our sins to a priest to someone who believes that they don't need a priest because they can go directly to God and ask for forgiveness.*

Chapter 4

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Through transubstantiation, the bread and wine truly become the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ. Our reception of Holy Communion is a real physical, tangible, and spiritual encounter with Jesus. How have you personally experienced this encounter with Jesus in Holy Communion and how has that encounter transformed you?*
2. *How can you help those you serve recognize that, because of transubstantiation, they are encountering the Real Presence of Jesus in Holy Communion?*

Chapter 5

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *As catechists, what duty do we have to ensure that our students receive Jesus in a worthy manner – with reverence, free from serious sin, and with proper fasting? Why are these things important?*
2. *Thinking about the meaning of the words Amen, Holy, and Communion, how might you explain to non-Catholic students that while they can participate in Mass, they cannot receive Holy Communion?*

Chapter 6

NOTES:

SESSION 2 ASSIGNMENT

- **Prayer:**
  - Take additional time to contemplate and pray more fully on the reflection questions from the Meditation portion found on the Lectio Divina handout.
  - Complete the Living the Word (Actio) activity during the week.
- **Action:**
  - Write a brief paragraph or two on what touched your heart the most from this week's presentation and why it affected you as it did?
- **Prepare:**
  - Bring the handout and Lectio Divina for Session 3 to class. Use the QR code to access the material or go to: https://phillyocf.org/scf-course-materials/
  - Read the Bread of Life discourse in John 6: 46-69
  - Come prepare to share your response to the Action assignment above and the following discussion question:
    - *What strikes you in the Bread of Life discourse? What does it reveal about the Eucharist and Real Presence of Jesus? How might you share this with your students in a way that creates within them a desire to receive Jesus in Holy Communion?*

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, You meet us with mercy in Reconciliation,
lifting the burdens we cannot carry, speaking Your healing into the places we hide,
and You feed us with Your very life in the Eucharist, drawing near to us in Your Real Presence, giving Yourself completely so that we may live in You.

Open our hearts to recognize what You are doing each time we approach these sacraments— restoring us, renewing us, and drawing us deeper into communion with Your love.

Make us people who seek Your presence, who trust Your mercy, and who allow Your grace to transform our lives. Send us forth strengthened by Your Body and Blood to bring Your compassion, peace, and joy to the world. We ask this in Your holy name. Amen.