

INSTRUCTION**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION OF STUDENTS FOR FIRST PENANCE AND FIRST EUCHARIST**

Sacramental preparation catechesis must occur in accord with diocesan guidelines before any student receives the Sacraments of First Penance and First Eucharist.

The following is to be observed in preparing students for the reception of these two sacraments:

1. Both Catholic schools and parish programs of religious education must provide the catechetical instruction to students in preparation for reception of the Sacraments of First Penance and First Eucharist.
 - a. Those students who attend Catholic schools are not to be required to attend another instructional program in the parish. The Catholic schools will provide the catechesis for the Sacraments during the regular school day within the Religion curriculum.
 - b. The parish religious education program will provide the catechesis for the students from the parish who attended public schools.
2. Meetings for parents and retreat programs and any formational activities for students are the responsibility of each parish. The pastor, the principal, and the coordinator/director of religious education are to collaborate on establishing joint sessions for parents and joint formational activities for the students.
3. The Sacraments are to be celebrated jointly for all students who attend the Catholic school and parish program of religious education.
4. In a consolidated school setting, the pastors are to consult with the coordinators/directors of religious education from each parish in the consolidation and the school principal to determine when the Sacraments of First Penance and First Eucharist will be received in each parish. The parishes are to schedule the administration of the Sacraments during the same time of year in order that the teachers in the consolidated school can instruct all their students simultaneously for the reception of these two Sacraments.

Policy

Adopted: October 12, 1992

NCD/Bishop of Harrisburg