



CONFESSION MISSION

**SERVES:
PARISH**

**TIME:
LENT**

PRESENTING THE NEED TO MY TEAM

- When is the last time you went to confession?
- According to the Church, how often do you need to go to confession?
- It is one of the precepts of the Church that every Catholic must confess their sins once a year and not receive communion until he has confessed all mortal sins. (Cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church 1457)
- How many people are in the confession line at your parish compared to those receiving Communion?
- People have stopped going to confession and thus are endangering their eternal salvation. If they do not get to confession they risk separating themselves from God permanently. What does the Church call this separation? (Cf. CCC 1033, 1035)
- Do you want to help motivate others to save their souls?
- With Lent / Holy Week approaching, this is the perfect time to help others experience Christ's merciful love.



**PEOPLE HAVE STOPPED GOING TO
CONFESSION AND THUS ARE
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SALVATION.**

OUR CALL TO SERVE: Let's organize and promote a Confession Mission penance service at our parish to help people get back to the sacrament of Reconciliation!

PROJECT OVERVIEW

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WEEK	STEPS	QUESTION OF THE WEEK
1	Plan: The club leader needs to work with the parish priest to schedule a date for the penance service. Typically a week night works well, around 7pm – ideally close to Lent. He may need to invite other local priests to assist with confessions.	
2	Design: The boys need to begin designing a poster and flyers for print and distribution. They need to develop a promotion plan at the parish, school and through other groups such as Challenge, the Knights of Columbus, and other ministries in the parish.	
3	Print: This week the posters and flyers should be printed and given to the boys to begin the promotion plan. Each boy should be assigned a specific place/group to promote to.	
4	Print Guides to Confession: Download the Guides to Confession from the Team Leader Resource Center online - Guide to Confession for Adults.pdf - Guide to Confession for Youth.pdf You can print copies of these to hand out at the penance service, or make your own to distribute.	

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5	Confession: This week it would be good to invite your parish priest to your group to give a short talk on the importance of the sacrament of Reconciliation and to offer the boys confession while the weekly activities are going on. They should have ample time to use the guide for youth to prepare well.	
6	School Mission: The boys should plan to distribute flyers at their school (make sure they receive approval from school staff first). Promote: The boys should continue to promote and send reminders to the groups they are responsible for.	
7	Parish Mission: The boys should obtain permission to promote the penance service and hand out flyers after weekend Masses this week. Each boy should be scheduled for a particular Mass, and hand out flyers to invite people as they exit Mass. Parish Bulletin: If the above is not possible, ask the priest to advertise the penance service in the parish bulletin this week and make an announcement after Mass or a boy could even speak.	
8	Confession Mission: The boys should arrive early and be dressed well (ties or suits) to act as greeters and ushers for the penance service. Remind them of how many souls could be saved with this project!	

PROJECT OVERVIEW

TACTICS BY AREAS

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LOCATION

- The penance service should be a Mass held at the parish of the Conquest group and with the parish priest ideally presiding.
- The boys need to evangelize their own school: they should talk to the principal first before passing out flyers.
- At the parish they should set up a table somewhere that most people will see it before leaving, and spread out to cover every entrance to invite people and hand them flyers.
- It is important to gain the support of other groups/ministries in the parish, to help in promotion for this event.

PROVISIONS

- A computer and office printer will be needed to print flyers, posters, and guides to confession for distribution.
- Donations may be needed or your Conquest groups funds to cover these costs. You could ask the parish priest if it is ok to place a donation basket in the back during the penance service for donations to cover printing costs or for Conquest.
- The boys will need to design and print professional flyers / invitations to the penance service to distribute at the parish, in their schools and to other groups/ministries.
- Posters should also be made to hang in the parish, schools, and to give to other groups / ministries.
- Print copies of the guides to confession for adults and youth to hand out during the penance service.

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TACTICS BY AREAS



RESPONSIBILITIES

- Since a lot of material needs to be designed and printed, every boy should be involved in some aspect of planning the designs, actual computer work or making copies.
- It would be good to come up with a slogan – or use “Confession Mission”.
- Delegating promotional responsibilities to each and every boy is the key to success. The boys will need to have squads settled and organized along with other responsibilities for it to run smooth.
- Boys will need to be assigned to promote after weekend Masses at the parish in week 7. Each boy should be at one Mass.
- Ensure that each boy has a specific responsibility for the actual penance service, as a greeter, usher, or to distribute the Guides to Confession and to collect afterwards.

CONTACTS

- Principal: If it is a public school, you will need to show sufficient student interest (and usually a teacher sponsor) to qualify as a school group and be able to put up posters. At a Catholic school, you can go straight to the principal. Discussing confession and handing out materials at lunch or recess cannot be forbidden at a public school, but it is still best to ask first. A student from his school will have to present the project with utmost clarity and professionalism for him to accept it.
- Pastor: You need to show him previous successes your team has had for him to have a special penance service which you promote. Previous help to him such as raking leaves or parish clean-up helps build a bridge. If he won't do a special penance service, promote one he is already doing. He will often be concerned about doctrinal orthodoxy so you need provide him with the materials you will be distributing in advance.
- Other groups / ministries: These are key to help promoting the event.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

DEBRIEFING

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SPECIAL OPS

- Schedule this to match when penance services are being offered if you cannot get a special one. (during Lent)
- This campaign is more extensive in promotion but the goal here is to have the boys step up with courage. Motivate them a lot so that in the future you can expect better and better apostolic work.
- The boys themselves need to go to confession during this apostolate or their words will be hollow.
- A special penance service at the local parish that is just promoted by these boys is a huge bonus if the pastor will do it. They can then know that everyone who comes is fruit from their efforts. This will make all the efforts rewarding.
- Have the date in mind from the first week so the project does not get drawn out.

CONTINGENCY PLAN



- If there is good attendance at confession where your Conquest group is, you can orient the project around some other need the boys sense. You can even focus on several values over the eight weeks, but do one at a time; switch every week, two weeks or month. Ideas for this may be to go over the human virtues, the theological virtues, the cardinal virtues, virtues opposed to the world of today, the beatitudes, the precepts of the Church, or some combination.
- Special greater emphasis can be put on one aspect or another if the need is seen. For example, a team may spend two weeks on school missions. A similar campaign would also work to promote a passion presentation such as stations of the cross during Lent.

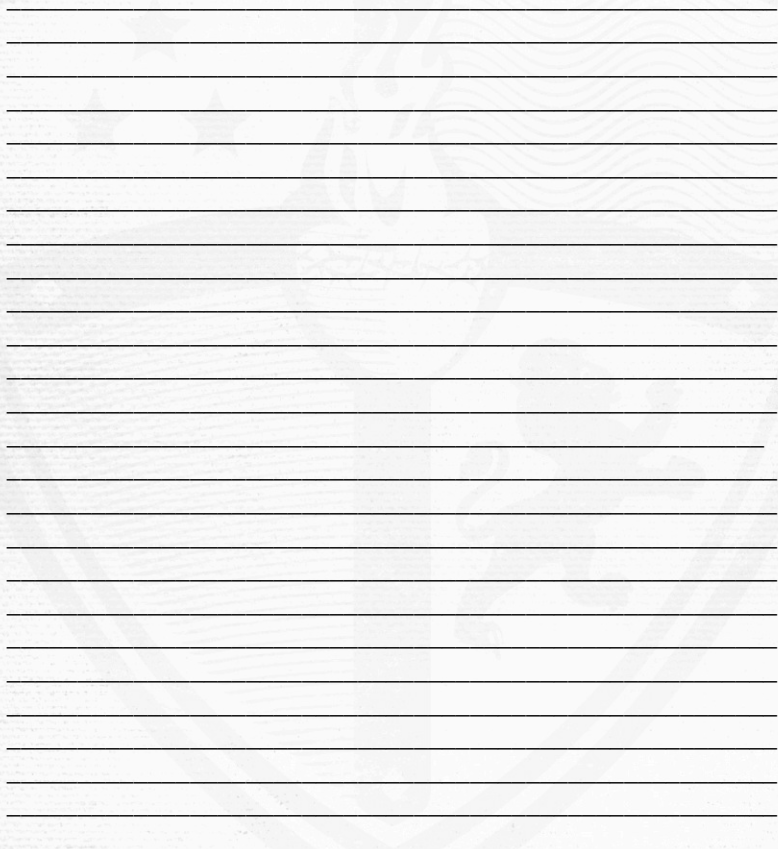
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PROJECT NOTES:



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