

Pre-Teens Preparing for Reconciliation

By: Diane Laney Fitzpatrick

They're old enough to know the drill: Examine your conscience, make a mental list of sins, pick the "nice" priest and go to confession.

But how many young people take time to make a thorough examination of their consciences before the sacrament of reconciliation?

Just like cleaning their rooms and doing their homework, they're going to need reminders.

Here are some questions pre-teens should ask themselves before participating in reconciliation.

An Examination of Conscience for Tweens Using the 10 Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before me

- *Have I wanted more things, making things more important than God?*

2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain

- *When I make promises, do I take them seriously?*
- *Do I use God's name carelessly or in anger?*

3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day

- *Did I stay home from church when I could have gone with my family?*
- *Have I tried to get a ride to church for mass if I needed one?*
- *Have I remembered to pray regularly?*

4. Honor your father and your mother

- *Do I obey my parents?*
- *Have I done my chores without complaining?*
- *Have I been disrespectful to teachers or coaches?*

5. You shall not kill

- *Do I keep my patience or do I lose my temper?*
- *Do I hold grudges and try to get even with others?*
- *Have I been unfair to others, especially those who are different than I am?*
- *Have I refused to forgive someone else?*
- *Have I caused another person to sin?*

6. You shall not commit adultery

- *Have I forgotten to show respect for the bodies of others as well as myself?*
- *Do I avoid harmful things like drugs, tobacco and alcohol?*

7. You shall not steal

- *Have I taken something that belongs to someone else?*
- *Have I “forgotten” to return something that I borrowed?*
- *Have I used money responsibly?*

8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor

- *Do I play fairly or do I ever cheat at school or games?*
- *Have I been honest, truthful and fair or have I lied?*
- *Have I hurt someone by what I have said or done?*
- *Have I copied someone else’s homework?*

9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife

- *Have I been jealous of friends that someone else has?*
- *Have I tried to be kind to others?*

10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods

- *Have I been jealous of the things that my friends have?*
- *Have I nagged my parents into buying things because my friends have them?*
- *Have I helped others when they needed help?*