TREASURES
Why Remain Catholic?

AT A GLANCE:
WELCOME to our brand-new series, *TREASURES: Why Remain Catholic?*

This series is addressing Catholics. If you're not Catholic, you're welcome to join us and feel free to listen and pick up what you can. But one thing is clear: The series does not aim to convert non-Catholics to become Catholic. Rather, the series aims to reconvert Catholics to love Jesus more.

AFTER THE SERIES:
We should be able to know the beginnings of the Catholic Faith, understand and appreciate the Faith, and reconnect with the founder of the Church, our Lord Jesus.

Talk 3: "Family"
Love Your Family

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT:

The third talk of this amazing series focuses on Family, specifically, about two of the most important expressions of being a family: Eucharist and Confession.

Personal Reflection and Group Discussion:
Did you grow in your appreciation for a specific Catholic belief or practice? Please explain.

I. REVIEW THE KEY BIBLE VERSE

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.
(Matthew 9:10-12 NIV)

"Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." (James 5:16 NIV)

Ask members what are their problems about going to Confession. Ask for sharing of good as well as bad experiences about going to Confession.

Point out: If God thinks you need preachers and pastors, He thinks you need confessors too. The Catholic Faith says you must confess to God directly. But every so often, the Bible says you need to confess your sins to another human being.

II. ASK FOR REACTIONS AND REFLECTIONS

Review the Bible Verses about The Last Supper:
While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the[a] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.
(Matthew 26:26-28 NIV)

Treasures

Talk 1:
History

Talk 2:
Legacy

Talk 3:
Family

Big Day

Notes:

Review the definition of the word Eucharist:
The Holy Eucharist is a sacrament and a sacrifice. In the Holy Eucharist, under the appearances of bread and wine, the Lord Christ is contained, offered, and received.

(a) The whole Christ is really, truly, and substantially present in the Holy Eucharist. We use the words "really, truly, and substantially" to describe Christ's presence in the Holy Eucharist in order to distinguish Our Lord's teaching from that of mere men who falsely teach that the Holy Eucharist is only a sign or figure of Christ, or that He is present only by His power.

(b) All Christians, with but few minor exceptions, held the true doctrine of the Real Presence from the time of Christ until the Protestant Revolution in the sixteenth century.

(c) The word "Eucharist" means "Thanksgiving."

Christ instituted the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper, the night before He died. -- www.ewtn.com/faith/Teachings/eucha1a.htm

Ask what were their beliefs about the Eucharist before they heard the talk.

Point out: Jesus Prayed for Unity of His Family

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. (John 17:20 NIV)

Jesus prayed for you. He prayed specifically that you stay united to His Church.

Remind members of the reflection from Matthew Kelly. He said some Catholics ask us, "Why should I stay in Church? Here's one fantastic reason: Because Jesus prayed you would stay.

Unity is our most powerful evangelistic tool. Usually, if an organization, Catholic or Protestant, goes through a split, you'll see it decline. But if you have unity, Jesus said, *Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.* (John 17:23 NIV)

III. PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

1. **Pray** for members who have had problems about going to Confession or receiving Holy Communion.

2.**Pray** for those who were offended that they may have the grace to forgive those who have caused their disenchantment with the Sacraments and the Catholic Church in general.

3. **Pray** for the unity of Christ's Family—Catholics and non-Catholics-- that everyone may be united in His Church.

In the next meeting, remember to follow up members about their concerns.

Notes: