



## How to Get Buy-In for *Renewed: Your Journey to First Reconciliation* and *Received: Your Journey to First Communion*



You're confident that *Renewed* and *Received* give your team everything you need to prepare students to encounter God's love and mercy in the sacraments. But sometimes, getting approval from decision-makers—especially your pastor or finance council—requires more than just enthusiasm.

**This step-by-step guide gives you the tools to make a clear, compelling case for *Renewed* and *Received* and secure the investment in your students' faith formation.**

Consider this document your tool kit for success in persuading stakeholders like your pastor, deacon, catechists, and finance council to make a change or affirm the decision to continue to use *Renewed* and *Received*.

### Step 1

#### Schedule a Conversation

The first step is to meet with your financial decision-maker (pastor or finance council) or your catechists to discuss this proposal.

In some cases, you'll have already done this during regular check-ins with these individuals. If that's the case, skip to step 2.

If it is difficult to get face time with the people who need to sign off on this decision, it could be helpful to use the templates below.

## Email Template for Requesting a Meeting with Your Pastor

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**Subject:** Strengthening Our First Reconciliation and First Communion Programs

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Dear [Pastor],

As you know, the sacraments can be challenging to understand, even for adults. It can be even more difficult to explain the incredible spiritual realities of the Mass and the sacrament of Reconciliation to children in language that they will understand.

I'd love to meet with you to discuss how we can strengthen our preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion at [parish name].

I've reviewed *Renewed: Your Journey to First Reconciliation* and *Received: Your Journey to First Communion* (programs from Ascension) and have found that they do an incredible job of exciting children's imaginations and revealing the mystery of what is truly happening in these sacraments without watering it down.

I'd love to share my thoughts about how these programs will benefit our parish and support our children's lifelong love for the sacraments.

Would we be able to chat for 15 minutes about this? I could meet [name the time here, e.g., "soon," "at our next check-in," "on XX date"].

In Christ,

[Your Name]



## Email Template for Requesting a Meeting with Stakeholders Other Than Your Pastor

(This could include your business manager, your parish accountant, or the chair of the finance council.)

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**Subject:** Strengthening Our First Reconciliation and First Communion Programs

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Dear [Business Manager/Accountant/Finance Council Chair],

As we plan for the future of our parish, I'd love to have an opportunity to talk to you about some changes I'd like to make to our First Reconciliation and First Communion programs and how they align with our mission and budget priorities.

Ascension's programs *Renewed: Your Journey to First Reconciliation* and *Received: Your Journey to First Communion* foster a lifelong love for these sacraments by exciting children's imaginations and revealing the mystery of what is truly happening in the sacraments without watering it down. I'd like to share how these complementary programs will support long-term parish growth, help families stay engaged, and offer a strong return on investment for our faith formation efforts.

Is it possible to put this on the agenda for the next finance council meeting?

In Christ,

[Your Name]

If they don't respond initially, make sure you follow up with them at least twice, first a week later and again a week after that.

### Step 2

#### Present *Renewed* and *Received*

Wonderful! You've scheduled a meeting with your parish priest, gotten a slot on the finance council agenda, or found time to chat with your catechists about *Renewed* and *Received*. Here are helpful resources to have ready for that conversation:

- The *Renewed* and *Received* Student Workbooks and Leader's Guides (in case they want to flip through the materials)
- This [\*\*\*Renewed and Received Overview Sheet\*\*\*](#), printed in color, one for each person. This sheet includes testimonials from parish leaders and parents and information about the presenters, the lesson content, and the program cost.



**Here are some tips for your conversation:**

- Begin by bringing up some of the problems you face with your current First Reconciliation and First Communion programs or, if you want to encourage the continued use of *Renewed* and *Received* at your parish, what spiritual growth you see in your students.
- Give each person an overview sheet, and walk through the benefits of the programs: how they are structured, their appeal to children, their faithfulness to Church teaching, and the many resources they provide for catechists and parents. Describe the ways you believe the programs will transform your students.
- If it's not too clunky, here are a couple of videos you could pull up:
  - » [This video](#) featuring the power of Eucharistic Adoration, from Lesson 5.2 of *Renewed*
  - » [This video](#), which shares a powerful testimonial of a parish in Shreveport, Louisiana, that uses *Renewed* and *Received*
- For catechists, you could walk through a lesson together or show them [this video](#), which explains all the components of *Renewed* and *Received*.
- On the back of the overview sheet, you will see a chart that shows what the approximate investment in *Renewed* and *Received* will be. It might be helpful to calculate this amount for your parish in advance. If you want a specific quote, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at [support@ascensionpress.com](mailto:support@ascensionpress.com) or 1-800-376-0520.

**Investment in Materials**

**Renewed & Received Complete Starter Pack**

- » Leader's Guide, Student Workbook, and Parent's Guide for each program
- » Complete DVD Set
- » *Renewed by Jesus: My Guide to Reconciliation*
- » *Receiving Jesus: My Guide to the Mass*
- » Complete Prayer Card Set
- » Online Leader's Access, Online Leader's Certification, and Online Parent's Certification for each program

**\$279.95**



<b>Student Materials</b>	\$15.95_-\$26.95 per student
<b>Leader Materials</b>	\$27.95_-\$29.95 per leader



If you expect objections over cost, discuss how using the program would save time and energy for the catechists. Consider these cost-saving measures as well:

- You can reuse the DVD sets and Leader's Guides year after year, reducing long-term costs.
- If your parish has reliable internet and a way to stream videos in the classroom, consider purchasing the digital version of the videos instead of physical DVDs. This option can be more cost-effective, especially if multiple catechists need access.
- Some parishes split the cost among different ministries (e.g., youth ministry, religious education, and sacramental prep) since *Renewed* and *Received* benefit multiple areas of faith formation. Ask if there is room in the general parish budget or if another ministry can contribute to the cost.
- Many parishes include a registration fee for sacramental prep to help cover material costs. If a full fee isn't feasible, consider a small contribution from families to offset expenses.
- Look into diocesan grants or parish-based scholarship funds that support faith formation programs. Some parishes seek sponsorships from parishioners who want to support youth faith formation.

### **Bringing *Renewed* and *Received* to your parish isn't just about choosing curricula—it's about fostering a lifelong love of the sacraments in young hearts.**

Your passion and commitment to these children can make all the difference in helping them encounter Jesus in a real and lasting way.

Every conversation, every meeting, and every effort to advocate for this program is an investment in the future of your parish and the faith of the next generation. Trust the Holy Spirit as you take these steps, and know that you are not alone in this mission.

**More questions?** Please contact us. We'd love to hear from you!

[support@ascensionpress.com](mailto:support@ascensionpress.com)

1-800-376-0520

