

Dear PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS,

You are beginning a special time of preparation with your child. This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to learn and grow in faith as he or she prepares to receive Holy Communion for the first time. It is also a unique opportunity for you and other family members and friends to deepen your own faith in God and the Church, and to strengthen your relationships with one another and with the parish community.

This **Call to Celebrate: Eucharist Family Guide** will help you make the most of this preparation time, whether your child is preparing in a parish-based program or at home with the family.

Part 1 includes reflections written especially for you as a way to support you in your own faith journey. They will guide you into a deeper understanding of the Eucharist as you connect these reflections to the story of your own life. Suggestions are also provided for continuing your reflections.

You may use these reflections on your own or they may be used in a group at a parent meeting.

- A practical checklist gives you tips for the process of preparation.
- Blessings and prayers to use for and with your child and other family members are included.

Part 2 of the *Family Guide* corresponds to the *Child's Book* of this program. It provides background and additional resources that can be used by any parent or family member. It also includes step-by-step session plans for those parents and family members who are doing all of the preparation at home, or to enhance the preparation your child is receiving in the parish.

- The guide ends with a memory page for you to use as you reflect on the process of preparation and celebration of this sacrament.

May this time be one of great joy, deepened faith, and growth in your relationship with God and your child.

