

Archdiocese of Santa Fe

Arquidiócesis de Santa Fe

Quinceañeras



Pastoral Guidelines

Normas Pastorales

Archdiocese of Santa Fe
Arquidiócesis de Santa Fe

Youth & Young Adult Ministry
Hispanic Ministry
Pastoral Juvenil Hispana

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Archdiocese of Santa Fe
Norms for Quinceañera Celebrations
***these norms may apply to both male and female**

I. Parishes in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe are encouraged to welcome and celebrate "Quinceañeras," a prayerful celebration of a young person's fifteenth birthday, as they represent

- a) A unique opportunity to evangelize,
- b) A teachable moment for catechesis, and
- c) An enriching experience of our multicultural Church.

II. In the Archdiocese of Santa Fe there are three options to celebrate a Quinceañera Liturgy:


a) **As an individual or as a group, during a Sunday Liturgy:** This should be a very simple celebration, since the Quinceañera is joining the Sunday assembly. She is to be accompanied by her parents and/or godparents only. The Quinceañera ritual will follow the readings and the mass of the day, and is to be celebrated following the homily with a special blessing. This should be as simple as possible.

b) **As an individual or as a group, during a Parish Celebration:** This celebration can be celebrated on any day of their choosing as approved by the pastor/administrator. She is to be accompanied by her parents and/or godparents and /or court (*Chambelanes* (young gentlemen) or *Damas* (young ladies)). Often times the Quinceañera is accompanied by 14 couples to represent each year in the life of the Quinceañera, a maximum of seven couples is recommended who in addition to the Quinceañera will represent the fifteen years of life. The Quinceañera ritual will follow the readings approved (section 3). This should be as simple as possible.

c) **As an individual or as a group, during a Thanksgiving Celebration:** This should be a very simple celebration to welcome family, especially if more than one family member is celebrating their Quinceañera. She is to be accompanied by her parents and/or godparents. *Chambelanes* or *Damas*, could be part of this celebration. This should be as simple as possible.

III. Parishes are encouraged to be open to these three possible options to accommodate family preferences, and not to impose an exclusive form of celebration. Excessive fees should not be imposed upon families seeking a Quinceañera liturgy. **A collection of funds from the assembly during the liturgy is not appropriate and not permitted.**

IV. The rituals and presider's instructions to be used by clergy in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe are found in the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops *Order for the Blessings on the Fifteen Birthday*. The normal presider for a Quinceañera is a member of the clergy. Every effort should be made by clergy to abide by and follow the USCCB Order of the Blessings on the Fifteen Birthday. Copies may be purchased through the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry or downloaded at www.asfym.org.



Most Reverend John C. Wester
Archbishop of Santa Fe



Date

Approved by the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council on September 5, 2000, Year of the Great Jubilee. First promulgated by Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan on October 12, 2000.
Revised by Archbishop John C. Wester August 2016.

PARISH QUINCEAÑERAS

I. INTRODUCTION

The fast growing population of Hispanics in this country, born here or coming as immigrants, challenges the Church to seek new pastoral approaches for liturgical celebrations that respect their cultural values. One among their many cultural traditions is the celebration of a *Quinceañera*.

a) The History:

Although the *Quinceañera* is primarily, but not exclusively, a sociological and a cultural celebration, it is also religious. In history, there has been some kind of rites when the young men and women were introduced to society. The girl becomes a "señorita" with new privileges and new responsibilities on the feast of the *Quinceañera*. The combination of these elements transform this celebration into a tradition that goes beyond the social event, adding a profound religious and spiritual meaning when the woman-to-be recognizes the Christian values and the challenges these values bring upon her.

b) The Opportunity:

The celebration of a *Quinceañera* is not a sacrament, but rather a para-liturgical ceremony that has great meaning for the young lady, her family and friends. It is an opportunity for the Church to evangelize, to meet the families where they are inviting them to conversion and offer continual support. It is a great opportunity for the Church to be present in the life journey of the young woman, their parents, their relatives and their friends. The *Quinceañera* celebration is a unique teachable moment of enormous possibilities, especially for the youth and their family.

II. THE QUINCEAÑERA AND EVANGELIZATION

The Quinceañera celebration can be a wonderful evangelization effort by the Church because it involves youth, their families and the whole Christian community. In this celebration the Church affirms the cultural identity and the faith expressions within the Hispanic community. In her opportunity to evangelize, the Church should see in the Quinceañera Celebration a way to respond to the needs of youth. Families also should be invited by the Church's minister to embrace and appreciate the celebration in its religious context.

The Church community should be invited to accept the Quinceañera Celebration as:

- An opportunity to reach out, invite, and welcome families to the Christian Community, allowing them the privilege to share their history, their gifts, and their blessings.
- An event that could lead to sacramental celebrations for the Quinceañera and other family members, such as Baptisms, Reconciliation, First Communions, Confirmations, and Weddings.

III. THE QUINCEAÑERA AND ITS CATECHETICAL MOMENTS

a) **General Catechesis**

The Quinceañera celebration is, in no way a substitute for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It should not be an occasion to rush through catechetical lessons in order to receive First Communion at the Quinceañera Celebration. However, the Quinceañera should be encouraged to join the parish Youth Group, and to enroll in sacramental preparation programs.

b) **Catechesis for Quinceañeras**

Several sessions of catechesis for the participants will be very helpful. They should be filled with human experiences and include Bible stories, liturgical rites, prayers, doctrines, moral teachings, and teachings on the lives of the saints.

The process of theological reflection like that used in the *Encuentro* process of *See, Judge, and Act*, can be incorporated in catechesis, so that the young woman learns how to reflect upon the presence of God in her life.

All Christians learn the rich content of Catechesis with our hearts as well as with our heads. For the Quinceañera, who is at a stage of developmental transition, some of the most meaningful knowledge will come through the "heart", through feeling, intuition, sensitivity, relationships and environment. Content for catechesis is not just found in words, but can also be found in art, music, drama, ritual and action. Every effort should be made to incorporate the signs and symbols of the Quinceañera tradition into the signs of catechesis (see section...3). Catechesis is to be accomplished with thoughtful and careful planning by those in charge of the celebration: Clergy, Catechists, Family and the Quinceañera. The experience should be one not only of serious expectations for celebrating it properly and effectively, but also one which is memorable because it was enjoyable and meaningful.

Christ is the content of catechesis in every situation. Therefore, the catechetical preparation for the Quinceañera should concentrate on how much closer the young person, her friends, and her family can come to God and the Christian Community. Journeying with the support of a community of believers, especially young people who are committed to Christ through Confirmation preparation or young ministry activities would also serve to help the young person grow in their relationship with God.

c) **Retreats**

Retreats for those preparing the Quinceañera Celebration are opportunities to reflect on the human and religious aspect of the celebration and to grow in their experience of the love of God and of the Church community. (See section 3)

d) **Help from the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Youth and Young Adult Office**

While the preparation, practice and retreat for Quinceañeras is primarily the responsibility of each parish, the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry has developed a training program for parish teams that can help them design and present the retreat. If the young person is unable to attend the retreat at their parish, the Office also coordinates with parishes that are willing to host youth and/or their parents.

IV. LITURGICAL SUGGESTIONS

Embracing a cultural tradition has become a great concern for pastoral ministers everywhere after the Second Vatican Council, when the *Dogmatic Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* directed liturgy incorporate the cultural elements of the place where it is celebrated.

"Even in the Liturgy, the Church has no wish to impose a rigid uniformity in matters which do not involve the faith or the good of the community" (Sacrosanctum Concilium No. 37).

a.) Padrinos (godparents) and Corte (young gentlemen and ladies):

Padrinos are very important within the Hispanic culture. Within the Quinceañeras celebration, padrinos become family and traditionally help with the expense of the celebration. The traditional Quinceañera celebration has fourteen young ladies with their escorts to accompany the Quinceañera. These youth, consider themselves honored to be part of the celebration as they journey with the Quinceañera. In an effort to respect this tradition, but also observing simplicity, a maximum of seven couples *is recommended*, who in addition to the Quinceañera will represent the fifteen years of life.

b.) Attire and Procession for the Quinceañera:

Traditionally the young lady dresses modestly and formally (white is an option, it is a symbol of Baptism). The Quinceañera should be discouraged from the beginning from having a chambelan escort her into the church. She should be accompanied by her parents or Godparents to the parish celebration.

c.) Attire for Chambelanes, Damas and Family:

Traditionally, the Quinceañera chooses the outfit and dresses for her corte. Parents should take special attention to the attire that is selected. They must dress modestly and appropriately for a sacred space.

d.) Expense:

Sharing abundantly is common in celebrations within Hispanic families. In good stewardship, it is not necessary to spend too much money. A practical concern is that people could offer a proportionate offering to their church.

The parish fee for a Quinceañera celebration should be reasonable and just. Special consideration should be made for those who may not be able to afford the parish fee.

e.) The Rehearsal:

Rehearsals are important to the preparation of a Quinceañera celebration. Some suggestions for a successful rehearsal time include:

- Welcoming the group. Help them to feel comfortable in the church and encourage respect.
- Review the ceremony, stressing that this is a special prayer.
- Give a quick review of what is going to happen and explain the celebration: the "why, who, when, and how." (Example: practice readings, procession, gifts...)
- -Emphasize what is appropriate attire for participants of this prayer.
- Stress the importance of everyone being on time and alert for all rehearsals and the celebration.
- For those who have received First Communion, offer the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Encourage the group to prepare to receive communion during the celebration.

f.) Symbols:

As part of catechesis, an explanation is given about one or several of the following symbols that may be used

and blessed during the ceremony:

- A medal or cross to symbolize the religious expression of faith.
- A ring to symbolize the connection and responsibility the young lady has with God, her community, and the values of her culture.
- Flowers to symbolize newness of life, commitment and responsibility.
- Other objects such as: Bible/Prayer Book, rosary, candle, crown...

Any of the above symbols may be used and blessed during the celebration.

V. THE CEREMONY

The focus of the Quinceañera blessing ceremony is threefold:

- 1) **Thanksgiving:** The Quinceañera gives thanks for the gift of her fifteen years of life as she participates in the Church ceremony.
- 2) **Commitment:** She publicly voices her commitment to life, her faith, and her Catholic Christian values that her parents, her family, and her teachers have taught her.
- 3) **Prayer:** She shares and gives witness of the importance of a prayerful life to enrich her Catholic faith.

It is our hope that these pastoral guidelines will enable the Church to journey and celebrate with the Quinceañera in such an important moment of her and her family's life. Hopefully, the Quinceañera will experience the joy of a true celebration and will be transformed by it. The Quinceañera celebration in the Church is usually followed by a fiesta, with music and food. It is a time of joy!

For more information on Quinceañeras, please call the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry.

2nd Booklet
Order for the Blessing on the
Fifteen Birthday

Bendición Al Cumplir
Quince Años

Quinceañera Celebration Resources

WELCOMING, HOSPITALITY & EVANGELIZATION

Welcoming:

- How can we be a welcoming church when the Quinceañera and her family come to schedule the event?
- What information should be prepared for the family? (Booklet- different types of services, music, symbols, retreat, practices, dress, etc.)

Hospitality:

- How can we as a parish community extend hospitality to the family and those who will be participating?
- What type of information can be available for ministers and parish staff?

Evangelization:

- What invitation can we offer for the family and participants?
 - If sacraments are needed – provide information of upcoming classes, registrations, etc.
 - Invitation to the Quinceañera to join youth ministry if not involved.
 - Invitation to parents to participate in parish faith sharing groups, ministries, etc.

SAMPLE RETREATS/DAY OF REFLECTION

(Family/youth only/single)

I. Possible Retreat Themes:

These can involve a variety of presentations, discussion, reflection, journaling as well as prayer.

A. The Quinceañera as a maturing young person:

1. "God calls you as a woman." (This could be presented in a panel discussion or a series of witness talks by several women).
2. "To be a woman means to recognize, accept and be responsible for our biological reality and the dignity of our creation. As a mature young person you are reminded that you are not an object of decoration, or of pleasure. This theme challenges you to always treat your body with respect."
3. "To be a woman means to be a person of integrity and to be responsible for your own character. This includes learning how to make good decisions, accepting responsibilities, accepting self and others with qualities and defects as well as recognizing our dignity."
4. "To be a woman means to be responsible in our relationships whether with parents, teachers, friends, boyfriend, etc."

B. The Quinceañera as Christian, and as Catholic:

This retreat is designed to invite and challenge the Quinceañera to an encounter with Christ, and then to resolve to live accordingly to the Catholic Faith. God calls us to live as Christians who practice Gospel values, embracing prayer and giving witness by acts of charity. As Catholics we are encouraged daily to live our baptismal call, participating in the Sacramental and ministerial life of the Church.

SAMPLE RETREAT

(Prepared by Jessica Bruciaga-OLOG and Deacon Anthony Trujillo- ASF Youth and Young Adult Office)

QUINCEAÑERA FAMILY RETREAT

Date

Place

- 9:00am-** Set up
- 10:00am-** Registrations and Worship Music
- 10:15am-** Welcome and Opening Prayer
- 10:30am-** Workshop: "The Celebration of the 15th Year" (30 min)
- 11:00am-** Workshop: "The Holy Family" (45 min)
- 11:45pm-** Workshop: "Youth and Values" (45 min)
- 12:30pm-** Lunch (45 min)

- 1:30pm -** Workshop: "Who am I?" (60 min)
- 2:30pm-** Workshop: "God's Forgiveness" (50 min)
- 3:30pm-** Closing Prayer, certificate, gifts
- 4:00pm-** Goodbye and Confessions

OPENING PRAYER/REFLECTION

LETTER FROM DAUGHTER TO PARENTS

Do not give me everything I ask you, sometimes I just ask to see just how much I can take.

Do not yell at me, I respect you less when you do, and you teach me to yell as well, and I do not want to.

Don't always give orders... If instead of ordering me around you asked me to do things I would do it faster and joyfully.

Keeps promises, good or bad ... If you promise me a gift give me it, but also if it is punishment.

Do not compare me to anyone, especially with my siblings. If you make me look better than the other one will suffer, and if you make me look worse than others, I will suffer.

Do not change your mind so often about what I should do: Make up your mind and keep that decision.

Let me take care of myself, if you do everything for me I will never learn.

Do not tell lies in front of me or ask me to say them for you, even if it is to get you out of trouble ... you make me feel bad and lose faith in what you say.

When I do something wrong do not ask me to tell you why I did it, sometimes even I don't know.

When you're wrong admit it and my opinion of you will grow, you teach me to admit my mistakes too.

Do not tell me to do one thing when you don't do it, I will learn and always do what you do even if you don't say anything, but I will never do what you say and not do.

Teach me to love and know God, it doesn't matter what they teach me at school because it is no use if I see that you neither know nor love God.

When I tell my problem **do not tell me: I have no time** for nonsense or that does not matter.

Try to understand me and help me.

Love me, and tell me, I like to hear you say it even if you do not think it's necessary to tell me.

Love: Your daughter

THE CELEBRATION OF THE 15TH YEAR

(30 Minutes)

Objective:

- *The tradition and history of the 15th birthday*
- *The spiritual celebration*
- *What a Quinceañera IS and IS NOT*

Focus Points:

What is a Quinceañera?

- Celebration of the 15th birthday.

Why do we do a 15th year Mass or Celebration?

- Thanksgiving to God for another year of life.
- Thank parents and family members for all of their support.
- Remember your commitment to God and your Catholic Community.

Where does this tradition come from?

- The Mayans and native people offered their youth to their gods as young warriors or maidens.
- When the Europeans arrived to the Americas, they changed their traditions and presented the youth to the society, rather than the gods. The young men were presented to the military services.
- During the 19th century, the young men and women were allowed to meet at social gatherings, such as parties, to find someone to marry, that way the young men would go off to war and leave their wives with children.
- Traditionally, at 15 years of age, the youth were encouraged to marry.

Group Discussion: How does your family celebrate a Quinceañera?

Why do we prepare our families?

- We all have a purpose in life- to live a life that pleases God by serving and loving our neighbor.
- Teach the young ladies, Quinceañeras, to be more responsible and mature, even though this day does not make them adults. Remind them that this is not a wedding.
- Remind the parents to love their daughters and their family and to provide what is necessary- love and attention. Parents must guide them through the right path.
- Young ladies: love and respect your parents. Everything given to you on this special day is a huge sacrifice because they love you, not because it is a necessity.
- It is a time to set aside the material aspect of the religious and spiritual meaning of a Quinceañera. Everything pending and unnecessary must be set aside for parents to give their complete attention to their daughters.
- The importance of family evangelization: when we teach a family about God, they can work together to fully understand their purpose in life and learn to help one another achieve it. Strong families make strong communities.
- This is an opportunity for the family to become closer and more loving.

A Quinceañera celebration is not:

- A sacrament- the church does not require it
- A wedding
- The day you become an adult; maturity comes on its own time
- About having the best party or how much was spent

THE HOLY FAMILY

(45 Minutes)

Objective:

- *Learn about the Holy Family*
- *Help the Quinceañeras see Mary as an example of an obedient and responsible young lady*
- *Help the parents see Mary and Joseph as an example of loving parents to Jesus*
- *Remind families to be more loving and to learn from the Holy Family*

Focus Points:

Reflection on the birth of Jesus-

- The huge responsibility Joseph and Mary had as the parents of the Son of God
 - Joseph was going to abandon Mary
 - Mary accepted God's call, regardless of her young age
 - Humble, humility, obedience and love
- The birth
 - Asking for shelter
 - The stable and the animals
 - The humble birth of the Son of God
- The obstacles after the birth- leaving Bethlehem
 - Trust in God completely

How was Jesus?

- Loved his parents
 - Obedient, respectful, helpful with his parents
- Listened to God
 - Read the scriptures and applied them as a child
 - Obedient towards God's calling
 - He followed the best path

Who is Mary?

- She was a young lady, humble, responsible, obedient
- How can you be more like Mary?
 - Compare the life of Mary with the Quinceañeras
 - Learn to obey God and parents
 - Make moral decisions
 - Love and respect yourself and others

Who is Joseph?

- Strong and obedient man
 - He wanted to leave Mary when he found out she was having a child that was not his
 - He listened to the message of an angel God sent about his wife and child
 - An example of a loving father to his son and wife
 - He never left Mary and respected her
 - Taught Jesus to work – carpenter
 - Hard working man who provided for his family
 - How can you be like Joseph?
 - Loving towards children and wife
 - Hard working
 - Be good examples to raise better children in your home

How can you be like the Holy Family?

- Follow the examples of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
- Have God in the center of your life and home
- Love one another with respect
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
- Educate your children by talking lovingly and firmly, when it is necessary
- As fathers, love your wives and give your daughters an example of the kind of man they should look for
- Always listen to each other
- Be together in good and bad

YOUTH AND VALUES

(45 Minutes)

Objectives:

- *Morality and decision making*
- *Healthy youth styles*
- *Values for self and family*
- *Maturity comes with time not age*
- *Teach and help young girls understand the responsibilities of women*

Points of Focus:

Youthful and fruitful:

- Youth must experience: Going out with friends, meeting new people, exploring, learning, laughing, crying, setting goals, failing, growing, listening...
- Being young is a moment in time to learn and take all the good things they possibly can to make them better people.
- Maturity comes with time and not age. Parents must not give too many responsibilities to their daughters if they are not mature enough to fulfill their duties.
- We do not choose our families, God chooses them for us so that we can work together and form a loving family. Everyone makes mistakes, but everyone can change.

What is morality?

- Someone's conscience, their behavior, what distinguishes between good and bad.

What is value?

- The importance we put into something. We must be careful with the things we consider to have value, they may lead us to greed, power over people, selfishness...

What is a decision?

- A thought that must be acted upon.

What is freedom?

- Freedom means being responsible for your own actions. The better decisions we make, the freer we become. God gives us the liberty to live a life as we please, having a good conscience. Sin is what keeps us from being free, because it keeps us from being moral and we can't distinguish between good and bad, much less from loving one another.

How does our conscience work?

- It is in us, in our hearts. When we use our conscience, we reflect God in us, as we were created at the likeness of his image. It is what leads us to good and avoid evil.
- The New Testament shows us the various our conscience works spiritually:
 - Good Conscience – Works towards a just life (Acts 23:1, 1; 1 Timothy 1:5, 19; 1 Peter 3:21)
 - Weak Conscience – Does not distinguish between good and bad (1 Corinthians 8:7)
 - Insensitive Conscience – Does not live a righteous life because it became desensitized to ignore a virtuous life style (1 Timothy 4:2)
 - Corrupt Conscience – Controlled by fake values (1 Timothy 1:5)
 - Guilty Conscience – Condemned by bad behavior or past events (Hebrews 10:22)

- Clean Conscience – Acknowledges their bad behavior and has asked for forgiveness (Hebrews 9:14)
- Clear Conscience – Is a witness that “there is no wrongdoing that goes unforgiven”. (Acts 24:16; 1 Timothy 3:9; Hebrews 13:18; 1 Peter 3:16)

What affects our decisions and morals?

- Our culture, society, work, money, personal values, addictions, family, friends, religious beliefs...

How can we change it?

- Find positive friends, go to Mass, talk to positive people change your attitude.
- Sometimes we are the ones making the wrong decisions and actions, and in order to see the good in others, we need to change ourselves first.

Today's Youth:

- How should youth behave?
 - Women before: could not make their own decisions, no opinions, did not work, lack of education, could only stay home to have children...
 - Women now: can study, work, and raise a family, are valued and respected, can express themselves and have the freedom of speech and vote...
 - Women of God: obedient, respectful, trustworthy, humble, loving, 1 Peter 3:3-4
 - Look at “Women in the Bible” chart
- Young ladies should not change their values or morals according to what society says is “in”. It is much more beautiful to be unique and yourself. God created us in his image, imagine what he must look like.
- Young ladies: What kind of young lady are you? What kind of woman do you want to become? What kind of woman is God calling you to be? Who is a good example in your life?
- Parents: What kind of daughter have you been raising? What kind of woman do you hope she becomes? Have you guided and advised her to be the woman God has called her to be?

WOMEN IN THE BIBLE

<p style="text-align: center;">RUTH Book of Ruth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Loyal ● True Friend ● Generous ● Simple ● Trustworthy 	<p style="text-align: center;">ISABEL Luke 1:5-25, 39-45, 57-66</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mary's cousin ● Sterile ● Faithful ● Mother of John the Baptist
<p style="text-align: center;">ESTHER Book of Esther</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jewish- Married the king ● Risked her life for her people ● Loyal ● Obedient to God and the king ● Respectful 	<p style="text-align: center;">MARY AND MARTHA Luke 10:38-42, John 11:1-44</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Follower of Jesus ● Martha <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Service to Jesus ● Both were faithful to the Lord
<p style="text-align: center;">EVE Genesis 2:18-3:20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gift of God ● First woman ● The perfect companion ● United and equal to her husband 	<p style="text-align: center;">MARY MAGDALENE John 20:1-18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Followed Jesus until he was buried ● Announced his resurrection ● Believer ● Faithful ● Patient
<p style="text-align: center;">SARAH Genesis 17:15-21; 21:1-7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sterile ● Mother of Isaac at 90 years of age ● Faithful ● Obedient 	<p style="text-align: center;">MARY Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-35, John 19:25-27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mother of Jesus ● Faithful ● Obedient to God's calling ● Loyal to her word ● Patient ● Willing
<p style="text-align: center;">ANA 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sterile ● Husband had two wife, she was his favorite ● Humiliated yet faithful ● Mother of Samuel ● Adored God 	<p style="text-align: center;">SUSANA Deuteronomy 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risked her life before sinning ● Trusted God ● Waited for God's mercy before she was sentenced to death

WHO AM I?

(60 Minutes)

Objectives:

- *Allow the young ladies to reflect on themselves*
- *Teach the parents to truly listen to their daughters and allow them to know them, especially throughout this new phase in their lives, not as Quinceañeras, but as their daughters*
- *Help families express their love for one another*

Focus Points:

How God sees us – Bible Verses:

- Psalms 139: 1-18 (When you formed me)
- Jeremiah 1:4-5 (Before you were formed)
- Genesis 1:26-31 (Image of God)
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 (You are a new creation)
- Ephesians 2:10 (Prepared to walk with God)
- 1 Corinthians 6:19 (Your body is a holy temple)
- Romans 12:2 (Be careful with peer pressure)
- John 15:15 (I call you my friend)
- 2 Timothy 1:7 (God has given you a spirit of self-control)
- 1 Corinthians 6:17 (You have been made one with God)
- John 3:16 (You may have eternal life)
- Jeremiah 29:11 (The Lord has given you a future of hope)

Family Activity and Reflection:

- This is a time to freely and truly talk as a family.
- It is a time to express your love and gratitude as a family.
- Encourage a positive moment.

Activity: Who am I and how well do you know me?

As human beings, one of our biggest mistakes is to not make time to know ourselves. Quinceañera: answer honestly the following questions. Parents: answer the way you think your daughter would answer.

When I was a little girl I liked to _____

I have ____ brothers and ____ sisters

I live with my _____

My favorite color is _____

My favorite food is _____

My favorite subject in school is _____

I like to draw. Yes or No

I like to sing. Yes or No

I have a boyfriend. Yes or No

What I like about myself is _____

What I least like about myself is _____

What I like to do is _____

What I dislike doing is _____

I feel happy when _____

I feel sad when _____

The most important thing to me is _____

The least important thing to me is _____

This year I wish to _____

In the next 3 years I wish to _____

I want or don't want to go to college

I have respect for my parents. Yes or No

I have respect towards my other family members. Yes or No

I have respect towards myself. Yes or No

GOD'S FORGIVENESS

(50 Minutes)

Objective:

- *Forgiveness and reconciliation with God*
- *The importance of asking for forgiveness to others and recognizing your faults*
- *The importance of going to confession as a family*

Focus Points:

Why is Reconciliation important prior to the Quinceañera celebration?

- It is important for the Quinceañera to receive communion during the celebration, if she has received the Sacrament of the Eucharist. God must always be put first throughout the Quinceañera preparation and celebration, especially when the family scheduled a Mass or Service in their Parish.
- It is a time to ask each other for forgiveness through this beautiful event full of life, joy and new experiences.

God's love is true:

- He does not judge us
- He sees and forgives everything, when we ask for forgiveness
- He loves us so much that He wants to build a relationship with you regardless of your sins

Forgiveness is a wonderful gift:

- The true presence of God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Lack of love creates division, wars and temptation – 1 John 4:7-8
- Ephesians 4:32
- Matthew 6:14
- Proverbs 10:12
- Acts 2:38
- 1 John 1:9
- Nehemiah 9:17
- Isaiah 1:18
- Ezequiel 36:26
- Psalm 103:12

Reconciliation packet:

- Examination of conscience
- Reconciliation process
- Spiritual confession for those who cannot receive communion

Reflection after going to confession:

- How did you feel when you heard the words of absolution?
- What can you do to be a better person?
- How is Christ present in your life?

Note to minister/coordinator: Try to provide a reconciliation service following the retreat or set a date with the Priest for each Quinceañera.

CLOSING PRAYER

Prayer is a very important part of this retreat and to gather families. At the end of the retreat the young ladies and their parents are separated to do a prayer for each other: young ladies to their parents and vice versa.

The closing prayer is very personal at this point, allowing the young girls and their parents to share their prayers to each other.

After their prayers, a certificate is presented to the families for their participation.

EXAMPLE OF MASS/ BLESSING/ CELEBRATION

METHOD FOR ELECTING READINGS AND MUSIC FOR A MASS/ BLESSING

BLESSING FOR A FIFTEENTH BIRTHDAY

A. RITE THAT MUST BE USED WITHIN THE THANKSGIVING MASS FOR A FIFTEENTH BIRTHDAY - (for one person or a group)

INITIAL RITES:

- Procession and Entrance Song
- Greeting
- Penitential Rite
- Collect Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

- Readings
- Homily
- Prayers of the Faithful

EUCARISTIC LITURGY:

CONCLUDING RITE

- Thanksgiving and Commitment
- (Sprinkling of water)
- (Offering of flowers to the Virgin Mary)
- (Blessing over religious objects)
- Blessing the Quinceañera
- Final Blessing and Exiting
- *Te Deum, Magnificat* or thanksgiving or joyous closing song

B. RITE THAT MUST BE USED OUTSIDE OF A THANKSGIVING MASS FOR A FIFTEENTH YEAR

INITIAL RITES:

- Procession and Entrance Song
- Greeting

READING FROM THE WORD OF THE LORD:

- Review list of approved readings

CONCLUDING RITE

- Thanksgiving and Commitment
- (Sprinkling of water)
- (Offering of flowers to the Virgin Mary)
- (Blessing over religious objects)

- Blessing the Quinceañera
- Sign of Peace
- Final Blessing and Exiting
- *Te Deum, Magnificat* or thanksgiving or joyous closing song

HOW TO SELECT THE READINGS

In the Liturgy of the Word, under the headings, they can take readings or the Lectionary for that day, especially if it is a Sunday, or the Mass to give thanks to God, according to the Lectionary for Masses for various needs (*Blessing on the Fifteenth Birthday*, 3).

FIRST READING

- 1 Kings 8:55–61 (n. 54) *Blessed are you Lord, who has granted peace to his people!*
- Ecclesiastes 50:24-26 (n. 105) *The Lord has done great things on all of the earth.*
- Isaiah 63:7-9 (n. 141) *I will remember all of the benefits the Lord has granted the people of Israel.*
- Zephaniah 3:14-15 (n. 180) *Israel, the Lord will be your King.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

- 1 Chronicles 29 (n. 920) R. *We worship you, our Lord and God.*
- Psalm 112 (n. 867) R. *Blessed are you Lord now and forever.*
- Psalm 137 (n. 904) R. *I will give you, oh Lord, thanksgiving for your loyalty and your love.*
- Psalm 144 (n. 911) R. *I will bless the Lord forever.*

SECOND READING (OPTIONAL)

- 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (n. 517) *I cannot stop thanking my God for the divine grace that has been given to you.*
- Ephesians 1:3-14 (n. 579) *To worship and glorify the grace that has been given to us.*
- Colossians 3:12-17. (n. 611) *Give thanks to God the Father, through Christ.*

GOSPEL

- Matthew 7:7-11 (n. 203) *Ask and you shall receive.*
- Matthew 11:25-30 (n. 221) *You have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and have revealed them to the simple people.*
- Mark 5:18-20 (n. 268) *Tell them how merciful the Lord has been to you.*
- Luke 1:39-56 (n. 297) *My soul glorifies the Lord.*
- Luke 10:17-24 (n. 327) *Rejoice that your names are written in heaven.*
- Luke 17:11-19 (n. 342) *He knelt at the feet of Jesus and gave thanks.*
- John 15:9-17 (n. 409) *This is my command: love one another.*
- John 16:20-22 (n. 417) *Nobody can take away your joy.*

SELECTION OF READINGS

Readings capture topics that emphasize the attitude of the Christian. Among the most outstanding themes is God's calling and the mission entrusted to each person, love and gratitude, commitment, faith and worship, discipleship, commandments, service and Christian life.

LITURGY AND MUSIC

Time _____ Presider _____

CALLING/Background church music

Practice with assembly _____

Monition to introduce the Mass _____

INITIAL RITES

Procession and Entrance Song _____

Penitential Rite _____

Gloria _____

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading _____

Responsorial Psalm _____

Second Reading _____

Gospel Acclamation _____

Gospel _____

Homily _____

Prayers of the Faithful _____

EUCCHARISTIC LITURGY

Song during the Preparation of the Gifts _____

Eucharistic Acclamations _____

Holy _____

Memorial Acclamation _____

Amen _____

Communion Rite

Our Father _____

Lamb of God _____

Communion Song _____

Psalm or hymn/instrumental or silence _____

Concluding Rite

Thanksgiving and Commitment _____

Sprinkling of holy water _____

Offering flowers to the Virgin Mary _____

Blessing of religious objects _____

Blessing the Quinceañera _____

Final blessing and exiting _____

Te Deum, Magnificat or thanksgiving or joyous closing song _____

This form may be adapted according to the Mass/service/blessing.

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MUSIC SELECTION

SELECCIÓN MUSICAL

Music Resources: FC- Flor y Canto , UC- Unidos En Cristo/United in Christ, Voz-Voice, Canto

ENTRANCE SONG

CANTO DE ENTRADA (Acogimiento)

- Vamos Todos a la Casa del Señor (Coppo) &30104223
- Vengo a Dar Gracias (Ruiz) &30104223
- Ante Tu Altar Llegamos (Rosas) &30104223
- Quinceañera (Villastrigo) FC 429 FC2 725 FC3 516
- Soy Feliz (Matéu) C2 230 FC 258 FC2 558 FC3 650 UC 563 VOZ 753* &12086* e20039*
- Hoy Señor, Te Doy Gracias (Fernández) &20729
- Cántico de los Tres Jóvenes (E. Cortés) C2 294 FC2 284 FC3 249 &10367
- Felicidad (De Zayas) FC 415 FC2 625 FC3 626 UC 677 VOZ 565
- Amor Es Vida (Trad./Verde Barajas) C2 121 FC 142 FC2 404 FC3 707 UC 690 VOZ 567 &11400
- Amor de Dios (Hurd/Moriarty) FC2 656* FC3 716* UC 597* VOZ 760* &10170* e10151*

Bilingual

- Salmo 150 [Alaben a Dios] (E. Cortés) FC2 638 FC3 625 &10367
- Éste Es el Día (Rosas) C2 120 FC 139 FC2 399 FC3 617 UC 679 VOZ 489
- Alabad al Señor–Aleluya (Espinosa) FC2 633 &11553 &30106395
- Cantemos al Señor (Rosas) C2 126 FC 158 FC2 634 FC3 627 UC 692 VOZ 572
- Aclamemos al Señor (Reza) C2 182 FC 262 FC2 568 FC3 531 UC 473 VOZ 776 e8964
- Somos Todos el Pueblo de Dios (Rubalcava) FC2 553* FC3 544* UC 586* VOZ 768* &5686

Bilingual

- Vengan, Aclamemos al Señor (Hurd) UC 469* e30108132* **Bilingual**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

SALMO RESPONSORIAL

- Salmo 112: Bendito Sea el Nombre del Señor (Straub/Cols) Responde y Aclama (Día de Acción de Gracias)
- Salmo 137: Te Damos Gracias (Espinosa) FC 437 FC2 645 FC3 613
- Salmo 144: Bendeciré Tu Nombre (Schiavone) C2 290 FC 575* FC2 273*
- Salmo 144: Alabaré Tu Nombre (E. Cortés) FC2 274* FC3 241* UC 175* VOZ 260* &10973*
- Salmo 144: Bendeciré Tu Nombre (Rosas) FC3 242 &11869
- Salmo 138: Te Doy Gracias (Montgomery) FC2 272 FC3 237 UC 171 VOZ 257
- Salmo 138: Te Doy Gracias (Rosas) FC3 238 UC 231 VOZ 256 &11869 e12202
- Salmo 138: Te Doy Gracias (Martínez) FC2 271 FC3 239
- Salmo 144: Abres Tú la Mano, Señor (M. F. García) FC 576 FC2 276
- Salmo 144: Abres Tú la Mano, Señor (E. Cortés) FC2 275 VOZ 262 &10367
- Salmo 117: Aleluya (Reza) C2 285 FC2 258* FC3 222* UC 158* VOZ 240* &10975*

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND GIFTS

PREPARACIÓN DE LAS OFRENDAS

- Te Doy Mi Corazón (Booth) UC 233* &30104223 **Bilingual**
- Señor, Quiero Servirte (Fernández) FC3 677 UC 232 &30104223
- Quiero Estar, Señor, en Tu Presencia (Erdozáin) FC3 515 UC 234
- Gracias, Señor (E. Cortés) C2 233 FC2 726 FC3 517 VOZ 772 &10367
- Gracias, Señor (De Terry) FC 467 FC2 643
- Te Den Gracias (Reza) FC 468 FC2 642 FC3 616
- Quiero Servirte, Mi Señor (Florián) FC 339 FC2 698
- Gracias, Señor (Correa/Thillet) FC3 612 UC 631 &20564
- Amar (Trad.) C2 209 FC 472 FC2 658 FC3 657 UC 620 VOZ 688
- Donde Hay Amor y Caridad (Rubalcava) C2 210 FC2 374* FC3 330* UC 623* VOZ 691* e20593*
Binligual
- Yo Canto Amor (Busquets/Zelada) FC2 654 FC3 656 UC 622 VOZ 686
- Donde Nace la Flor (Rosas) C2 258 FC2 715 FC3 708 UC 734 VOZ 597 **Bilingual**
- Ubi Caritaas (Rosania) Voz 687
- Canción del Misionero [Alma Misionera] (Anónimo) FC3 678 UC 562 &20146
- No Hay Amor Más Grande (Hurd) FC3 345* UC 375* VOZ 441* &20753* e20102* **Bilingual**
- Guíame, Señor (E. García-López) FC3 680 &30102801 &20146*
- Vaso Nuevo (Anónimo) FC2 537 FC3 498 UC 558
- Todas Nuestras Vidas (J. Cortez) e30108129*
- Desde la Aurora hasta el Ocaso (J. Sosa) UC 484* VOZ 788* &11246* e11496* **Bilingual**

COMMUNION SONGS

CANTO DE COMUNIÓN

- Oración de San Francisco (Temple) C2 235 FC 483 FC2 683 FC3 734 UC 536* VOZ 720* &12086* **Bilingual**
- Un Mandamiento Nuevo (De Zayas) FC2 659 FC3 658
- Salmo 33: Gusten y Vean (Reza) FC2 202* FC3 176* UC 102* VOZ 168* &10973* **Bilingual**
- Canto de María (Luna) C2 156 FC 233 FC2 288 FC3 253 UC 448 VOZ 531
- Salmo 18: Señor, Tú Tienes Palabras (Reza) FC2 177* FC3 156* UC 78* VOZ 140* &10973*
- Yo Soy el Pan Vivo (Hurd) e30108134*
- Salmo 102: El Señor Es Compasivo (E. Cortés) FC2 247 FC3 213 VOZ 224 &11877
- Pan de Vida (Hurd/Moriarty) C2 195 FC 284* FC2 591* FC3 594* UC 501* VOZ 796* &9921* e9110* **Bilingual**
- Celebración de Unidad (E. Cortés) FC2 601 FC3 715 &11877 **Bilingual**
- Isaías 63 (E. Cortés) &30104223
- Ven al Banquete (Hurd/Moriarty) C2 180 FC2 600* FC3 570* UC 478* VOZ 779* &10170* e10336* **Bilingual**
- Pan de Vida (J. Cortez) UC 515* VOZ 823* &10655* e10815* **Bilingual**
- Pescador de Hombres (Gabaráin) C2 262 FC 407* FC2 709* FC3 647* UC 541* VOZ 702* &12086* &11146* e8419* **Bilingual**
- Ubi Caritas (Hurd) UC **Bilingual**

THANKSGIVING AND COMMITMENT

ACCIÓN DE GRACIAS Y COMPROMISO

- Respuesta a la Oración de la Quinceañera (J. Sosa) &30104223*
- Quiero Responder que Sí (Centeno) &30104223
- Quiero Responder que Sí (J. Cortez) &30104223*
- Con Tu Gracia (Fernández) &30104223
- Canción de los Padrinos (J. Sosa) &30104223*

FLOWERS TO THE VIRGIN

FLORES A LA VIRGEN

- A Tus Pies, Virgencita (Rosas) &30104223
- Del Cielo Ha Bajado ave de Lourdes C2 159 FC 218 FC2 472 FC3 438 UC 445 VOZ 554
- Dios Te Salve, María (Trad./Reza) FC 237 FC2 454
- Santa María del Camino (Espinosa) C2 155 FC 236 FC2 447 FC3 405 UC 447 VOZ 540 &20146
- Madre de los Pobres (Gabaráin) FC 223 FC2 455 FC3 430
- Quiero Decir que Sí (Díaz Britos) FC 242 FC2 458 FC3 514 UC 545 &20146
- Virgen Mambisa (O. Rodríguez/R. Zelada) FC2 457 FC3 422 UC 456 VOZ 536
- Oh Santísima o du fröhliche C2 153 FC 240 FC2 462* FC3 419
- Salve (J. Sosa) C2 158 FC 200 FC2 469 FC3 421 UC 443 VOZ 529 &11246
- Madre de Amor (Correa/Thillet) &20552
- Salve, Reina de los Cielos (Rubalcava) FC3 423* &20447* e30103901*

CONCLUDING SONG (sending)

CANTO DE SALIDA (envío)

- A Ti, Dios (J. Cortez/R. M. Icaza) FC3 623 UC 694* &11810* e11977*
- Magnificat (Coppo) &30104223
- Magnificat (Rubalcava) FC2 287* FC3 151* UC 196* VOZ 282* &10536* &20447* e10833*
- Bilingual**
- Mi Alma Glorifica al Señor (Magnificat) (J. Cortez) FC3 251 &20247
- Canto de María (Mejía) C2 145 FC 211 FC2 286 FC3 254 VOZ 271 &11146
- Porque Me Ha Ungido (J. Cortez) FC3 687 &20247
- Canto de María (J. Sosa) FC 213 FC2 171* FC3 252 UC 185 VOZ 537* &11246* **Bilingual**
- El Poderoso Ha Hecho Obras Grandes por Mí (Lucas 1) (Rosas) &11869
- Las Mañanitas (Trad.) C2 143 FC 423 FC2 718 FC3 704
- Deo Gratias (Rubalcava) FC3 615* UC 638* VOZ 604* &10536* e30102945* **Bilingual**
- Demos Gracias al Señor (Gabaráin) C2 238 FC 420 FC2 644 FC3 611 UC 634 VOZ 607
- Gracias, Señor (Gabaráin) C2 241 FC 381 FC2 647 FC3 614 UC 639 VOZ 609 &11146
- Humildes Gracias (Trad.) C2 240 FC 288 FC2 640 FC3 610 UC 635 VOZ 608
- Dad Gracias al Señor (Palazón) C2 237 FC 324 FC2 641 FC3 355 UC 170 VOZ 601
- Te Den Gracias (De Zayas) C2 239 FC 323 FC2 616 FC3 604 VOZ 610
- Ven y Sígueme (Fernández) FC3 651 UC 549 &20146 &20074
- Con Amor Jovial (J. Cortez) FC2 700* FC3 685* &10203* &20146* e10745*
- Yo Estaré con Ustedes (J. Cortez) e30108131*

RELIGIOUS AND TRADITIONAL OBJECTS

The Medal:

Symbolizes the religious expression of faith. The young lady is placed under protection of the person represented by the image on the medal.

The Rosary:

Represents Mary's love.

The Ring:

Symbolizes the tie and the responsibility the young lady has to the community and to her God.

The Crown:

Symbolizes the victory the young lady has won in trying to live a Christian life in the midst of all the problems and challenges of her environment.

The Earrings:

Reminder to listen to God's word.

The Flowers:

Symbolize the newness of her commitment and responsibility to the community. Flowers symbolize new life at any event.

The Bible:

Symbolize the compromise and responsibility with God and herself to listen and live her life with Gods words and wisdom.

CONSECRATION TO MARY

(There is a moment during the Quinceañera celebration when the young lady will be asked to read this, or a similar prayer, in front of her faith community as a sign of commitment to the Church and her faith.)

Loving God, I thank you for the gift of life
for creating me in your image and likeness
and for calling me to be your daughter through baptism.
Thank you for sending your Son Jesus to save me
and your Holy Spirit to sanctify me.
I will say "yes" to all that you will for me
in your goodness and love.

With your grace I commit myself to serve
my brothers and sisters all my life.

Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother,
I dedicate myself to you.
Since you are my model of faith,
help me to continue learning from you what I need
to be a Christian woman.
Help me to hear the Word of God as you did,
holding it in my heart and loving others,
so that, as I walk with Jesus in this life,
I may worship Him with you in all eternity.

Amen.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVANGELIZATION & MINISTRY

If the Quinceañera, family & participants are involved in the life of parish...

- Offer ministries in the parish community so that they can participate
- Offer faith formation, youth ministry & spiritual opportunities
- Offer leadership opportunities & development

If the Quinceañera and her family are not involved in the life of the parish...

- Invitation to parish ministries
- Invitation to faith formation/Youth Ministry
- Sacramental opportunity for Quinceañera, Family & participants
- Invite the Quinceañera, family & participant to offer to share their gifts with the community. (Make sure that your parish leadership is ready to welcome them)