

CELEBRATION OF RECONCILIATION

Conception Abbey

Language, Culture and Church for International Priests and Religious

NAMES OF THE SACRAMENT

- “Reconciliation”
 - Still a popular title in the US
 - Implies more than sad confession of sin: a happy result
 - Sets an ideal for human relationships



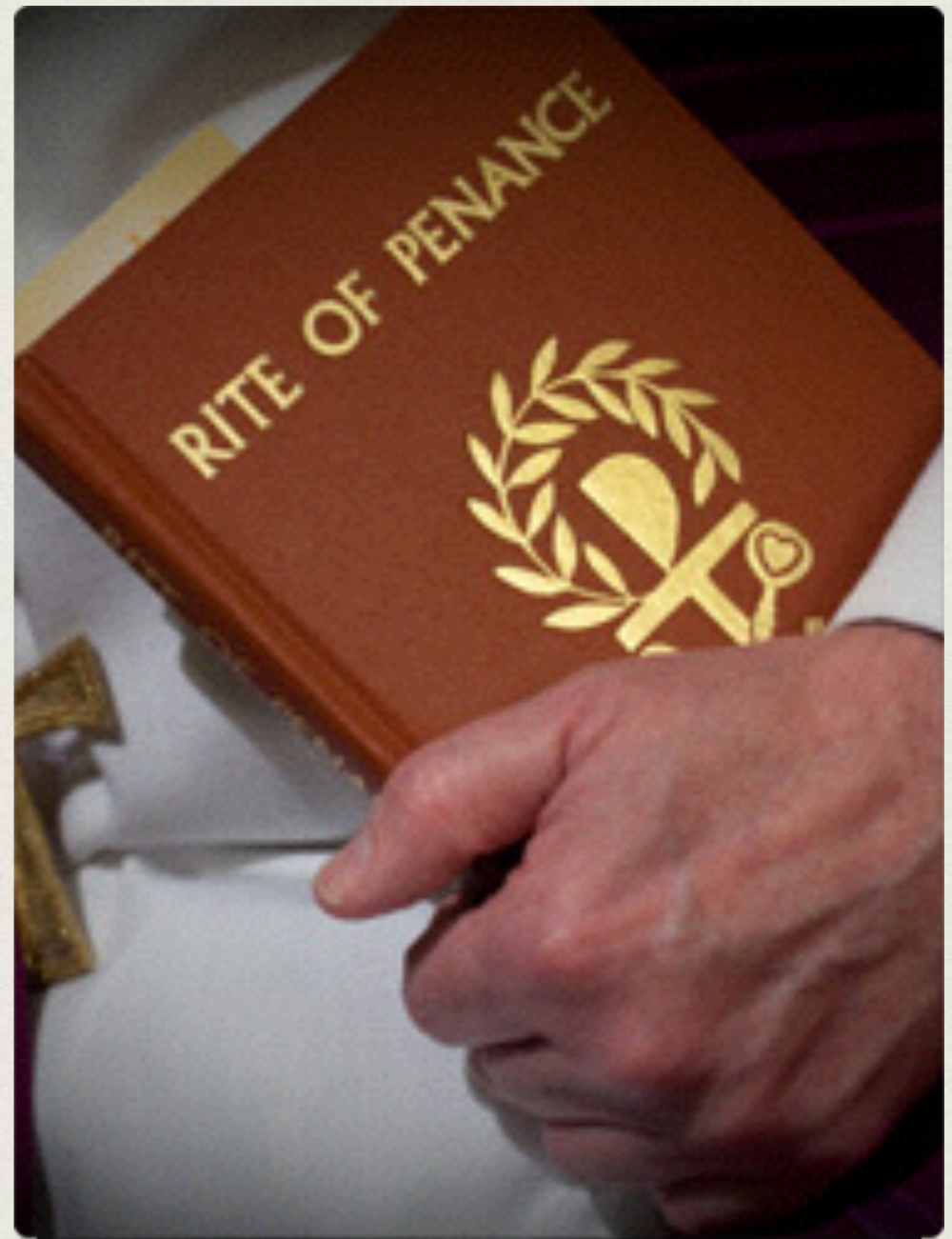
NAMES OF THE SACRAMENT

- “Confession”
- Also still commonly used title
- Especially appropriate for expressions of sorrow



NAMES OF THE SACRAMENT

- “Penance”
- The title of the entire rite
- Includes other ways of celebrating



TRENDS IN US CHURCH

- Reduced numbers
 - But still high in hispanic community
- Overall quality still very good



TRENDS IN US CHURCH

- Popularity of second form
 - especially during Advent and Lent
- Face to face option in first and second form



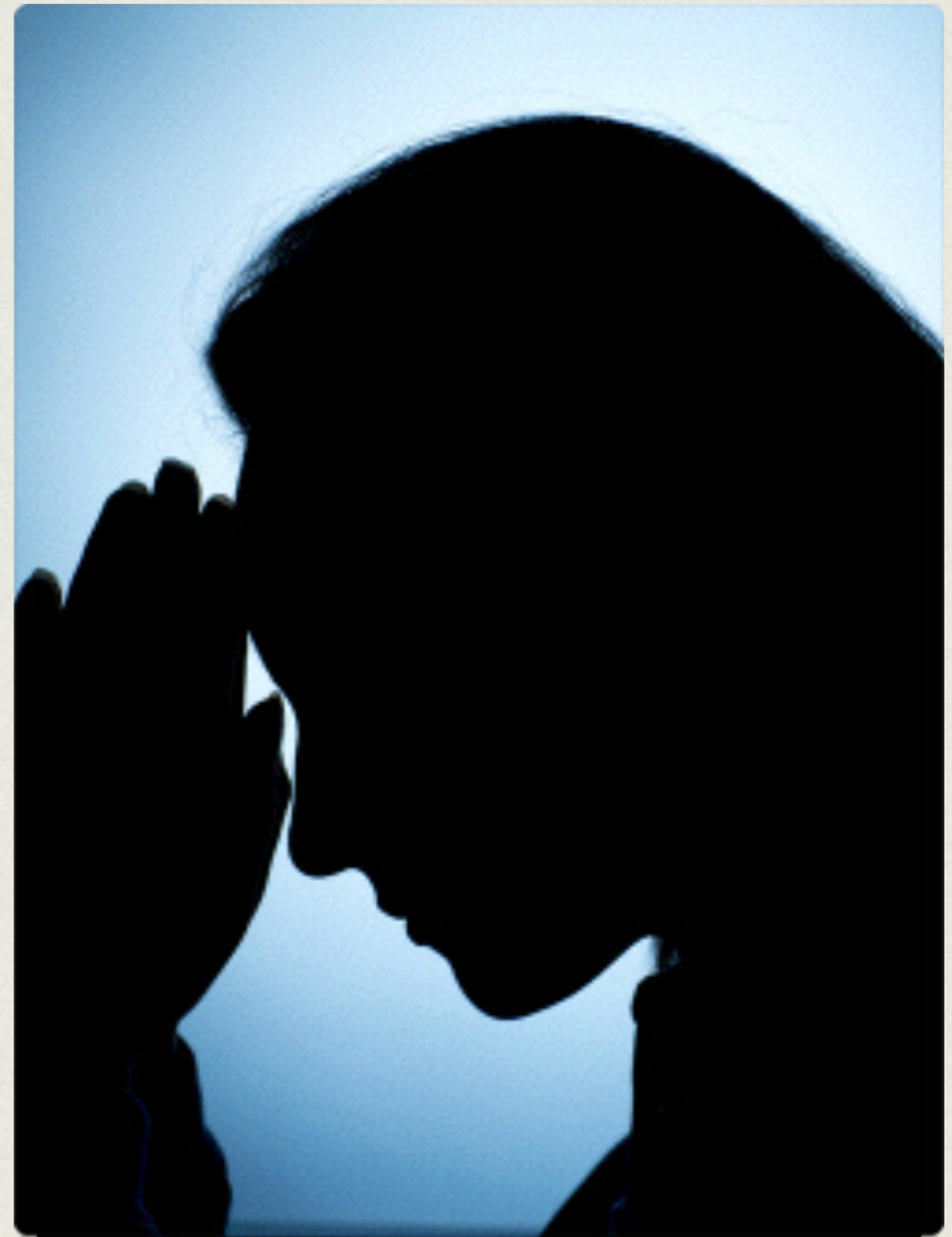
CHANGING SENSE OF SIN

- People are less likely to obsess over small sins
- Increased awareness of God's mercy
- Confession seen unnecessary for small sins



CHANGING SENSE OF SIN

- Busy with other things in their lives
- More comfortable confessing to God than to a priest



CHANGING SENSE OF SIN

- People don't consider themselves sinners
- Advertising encourages people to pamper themselves



CHANGING SENSE OF SIN

- Job market encourages self-confidence
- Feeling of victimization
- *Humanæ vitæ*



IMPROVING PARTICIPATION

- Encourage people to come
- Speak of your own experience
- Stress the value of dialogue and hearing words of forgiveness (e.g. Prodigal Son conclusion)



IMPROVING PARTICIPATION

- Stress the assurance of forgiveness
- Try different days and time slots
- Use the seasonal gatherings



IMPROVING PARTICIPATION

- Be a good confessor
- Explain how you like to hear confessions
- Stay positive

