

An Instruction for Priests Hearing The Whole-Life Confessions

The experience of hearing confessions that have been well-prepared and offer so much of an individual's personal lives: hopes, struggles, dreams, fears, sins etc., is powerful and consoling for the priests. Try to find that sweet spot (not too little—not too much) in spending time in your pastoral comments and offering of the penance and absolution. Not all be said. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you on what to say and how much to comment on.

Fr. Watson always offers penitents this praise: “You could have given Jesus no greater gift than the confession of your sins, especially the serious ones that have so weighed on your heart and soul. Jesus came in the world to save us from our weaknesses and sins and you have taken the great sacrifice of his passion and death seriously. He loves you for that. No greater gift can you give the Lord! He delights in you and has desired to forgive you and bring healing.