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Assumption parishioner merits CPA honor for book

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SAN BERNARDINO—In the 2009 Catholic Press Association competition, "*Reconciliación: El ministerio revelado del amor y la misericordia de Dios,*" a book co-authored by Our Lady of Assumption Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) director Clare Colella, received a first place award.

"We have forgotten or neglected the sacrament in our spiritual journey," Colella said. "Using the booklet opens the door to living lives of reconciliation and not just going to reconciliation."

Authored by Colella, Rory Cooney, and Joseph Favazza, the work was praised by the judges as offering "a clear understanding and appreciation of the sacrament. Working in small groups engages the participants in the learning process, inviting them to learn."

The Catholic Press Association, which grants book awards in several categories, awarded the book first place overall in the Spanish language division.

The three authors combined their talents to create the booklet in about two years. Colella was the key writer; while Joseph Favazza wrote the theological essays and Cooney arranged the music and prayers.

"Working on the booklet was a multiyear stage in growth for me," Colella said. "You have to think and pray about it."

The guide book contains materials for six 90-minute faith-sharing discussions. Four sessions lead up to a celebration of the sacrament of penance or a penitential service, followed by two sessions that reflect on the experience of reconciliation.

Each session includes a short prayer with music and words for the recommended songs, reflective writing to guide discussion, and questions to initiate faith-sharing. Between each session there are essays on reconciliation and the sacrament of penance.

"More than ever, I am aware of the terrific teamwork that goes into making any resource a good production," Colella said. "It is a grace to be a part of this."

"Reconciliación," and its English-language counterpart published earlier, *"Reconciliation: The Unfolding mystery of God's Mercy and Love,"* are part of the Catholic Faith Sharing series of books produced by Liturgical Publications Inc for small groups. Liturgical Publications produces weekly bulletins and newsletters, online communications, and in-person faith-sharing.

For information in receiving a copy of the booklet and materials in English or Spanish, visit www.catholicfaithsharing.com.