

IHM 175th Vocation Education Program Teacher Guide



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"TEACHING...LEARNING...

BRINGING PEOPLE CLOSER TO GOD"

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Welcome

to our IHM 175th Anniversary Vocation Education Program Display.

Our display is an *interactive, augmented* experience meant to engage our visitors in our IHM Mission, its effect and impact on Catholic education, and its transforming influence in the lives of those we have the privilege and honor of serving. May this exhibit also convey the many rich graces and blessings which have transformed the lives of our IHM Sisters for over 175 years because of our work and lived mission.

To engage in this immersive experience, download the “IHM Story” app from the Apple App Store.



Wherever the icon  is displayed on the image found on our website, hold your device to the exhibit image to experience an interactive component sharing more about our IHM story.

May this be a blessed experience for you!

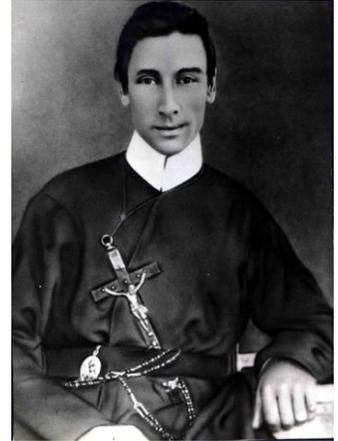
To learn more about becoming an IHM Sister, explore our website at: <https://www.ihmvocations.org> or call 610-889-1553

IHM Founder's Day Activities November 10



Rev. Louis Florent Gillet

Father Louis Florent Gillet was born in Antwerp, Belgium, January 12, 1813 and baptized the same day at the Franciscan Church of St. Anthony. Although little of his childhood can be documented, it is known that education was highly prized in the family. Louis received the best that the times could provide. In 1827, he began his classical studies at the Royal College of Liege; his religious education was pursued at the seminary in the ancient Abbey of Rolduc. In 1832, having completed his philosophy studies at the State University of Louvain, he announced his decision to enter the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists).



At age 20, Louis entered the Redemptorist House at St. Trond, Belgium. Two years later, he pronounced his religious vows, and on March 10, 1838, he was ordained a priest. During the next four years, he served as secretary to Fr. DeHeld at Tournai, Belgium, but his great desire was to join his brothers priests who had begun missions in the United States. In 1843, with Father Poilvache, Gillet departed for the missions in the United States.

Fathers Poilvache and Gillet preached many successful missions, one of which was at St. Anthony in Monroe, Michigan. The parish was to become a missionary base for the Redemptorists and its name would be changed to St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception. Father Gillet became pastor of the church and superior of the Monroe foundation. In 1844, Gillet met Theresa Maxis, a member of the Oblate Sisters of Providence in Baltimore. He convinced her of the great needs of the children in Michigan. In November 1845, Theresa left the Oblates and, with Father Gillet, founded the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In his later years, Father Gillet returned to Europe and entered a Cistercian monastery where he was known as Pere Marie Celestin. He remained a Cistercian until his death in 1892.

Mother Theresa Maxis Duchemin



Theresa Maxis was one of the first three members of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM), which was founded in 1845 in Monroe, Michigan. Born in Baltimore in 1810 of a Haitian mother and British father, Theresa was well-educated and articulate in both French and English. At age 18, she helped Mother Elizabeth Lange found the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first congregation of women religious of color in the world.

While general superior of the Oblates, Theresa met Father Louis Florent Gillet, CSSR, who was seeking religious sisters for schools in the still new state of Michigan. After much discernment, Theresa agreed to help Father Gillet begin a new congregation in Monroe.

The congregation grew slowly but was well known for its educational works. A jurisdictional dispute about the congregation arose in 1859 between the bishops of Philadelphia and Detroit. The bishop of Detroit held Theresa responsible, deposed her as General Superior, and sent her to the Pennsylvania foundation, which later became a separate branch of the congregation.

Because of many difficulties and misunderstandings, Mother Theresa was forced to leave the Congregation and spent 18 years in exile with the Grey Nuns of Ottawa, where she kept firm in her faith and love for her IHM congregation. In 1885, Mother Theresa was allowed to return to the IHM congregation in West Chester, Pennsylvania, where she lived her last seven years. Loved and admired by her sisters and others who knew her, Mother Theresa's legacy of courage, peace and service to the poor continues in now three IHM congregations of Monroe, Michigan, Immaculata and Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Vocation Awareness Activities



GRADE: PRE-K to Kindergarten
God Made Me Special and Has a Plan for Me

Pre-School – Kindergarten Vocation Activities
God made me special and has a plan for me

Teacher’s Note: God made each of us. He made us all different. He gave us all different gifts and talents, but we all are called to be with Christ, to follow Him in holiness and eventually be with Him in heaven.

Objectives: Students will have a basic understanding that:

All of us are created by God.

We are all very special in God’s eyes.

We are all very different.

It is important to understand that God loves every one of us no matter what we look like or how different we are.

God will always be watching over us and protecting us.

God continues to ask us to use our gifts and talents to serve the Lord and one another.

Materials:

Construction paper (card stock if available)

Crayons

Scissors

Colored Yarn/String

Activity 1:

Divide the students into two groups. Have them form an inner circle and an outer circle. Have the inner group face outward and the outer group face inward towards the center. Ask the children to take a look at their own hands and remember what they see. Have them hold their hands up as if they were trying to reach the stars with both hands.

Now have them turn and face another student in the other circle. (If not even numbered students, teacher participates). Have them put their hand up against the student’s hand and compare size, shape, fingernails, color, etc. Now have the outside circle move one person to the right (inner circle does not move) and compare hands again. Keep moving until everyone from the inner circle has compared hands with everyone in the outer circle.

Ask them if all the students have the same size hands; the same length of fingernails; the same color; the same finger length, etc. Remind them that God created all of us and that each one of us is unique – no two people are alike.

Have them return to their seats. On a piece of construction paper, have them draw the outline of their hand. Taking their time; have them draw a picture of their face in the palm of the hand. While they are doing that, with the help of room aides or other helpers, ask them what they like to do or why they think that they are special and write that on each finger.

Talk to the children about each child’s hand, their gifts and talents. Be sure to emphasize how some may know their gifts now but God has many surprises in store for them and they may find many more gifts and talents as they grow older.

Cut out the hands (depending on level, either do it for them or they can do it) and put them around the room, hanging them on a colorful piece of yarn, to remind the students how together they make a beautiful design in this world.

Discussion:

Each person is unique and special

No two hands are the same

Each of us has special gifts that God has given to us.

“Many hands make for light work”; have students talk about times at home or in school where this is true. When we all share our gifts and talents, everyone has what they need and the work gets done.

Think about ways you can use your hands to help other people and spread the love of Jesus.



Sample of what the hand may look like

Activity 2:

Hand-out the coloring page “The Heavenly Father has a Plan for Me”; let the children color it in. Talk about how special God has made each one of us by giving us our parents and loving us so much he brought us into the world. Talk about how at Baptism they became even more special when they became a Child of God. Close by singing the I AM SPECIAL song with them.

God, our Father, Has a Plan for Me



I am a child of God, and
he has sent me here.



Has given me an earthly
home, with parents kind
and dear.



Teach me all that I must
do to live with him
someday.

I AM SPECIAL (sing to the tune of Frère Jacques)

I am special (point to yourself)

I am special

Don't you see? (make binoculars with your fingers)

Don't you see?

Someone very special (hands out to the side, palms up)

Someone very special

'Cause God (point to heaven) made me (point to yourself)

God made me!

I am special (point to yourself)

I am special

I can pray (fold hands in prayer)

I can pray

To do what Jesus asks me (both hands reaching up to the sky)

To do what Jesus asks me

Every day (left hand down to side)

Every day (right hand down to side)

Closing Prayer:

Form a circle. The teacher and each child take turns saying:

“Thank You, God, for making me (name), special. After everyone has a turn, the teacher shares with the class what God said about them in Isaiah 43:4:

“You are precious in my eyes and glorious... because I have made you.”

Primary Lesson – Day 1

The Sacrament of Baptism: God Call Us into His Family

Overview:

In this lesson students will realize how special they are to God. Through the sacrament of Baptism God has called each of them by name and has made them a special part of his family called the Church. With this realization, students will begin to understand that, as a child of God, they are called to follow His laws and His way of love.

As catechists, it is our role to guide and direct these young children in lifting their hearts in joyful prayer and to know that God speaks to us in the quiet of our hearts.

Objectives:

- The students will understand that they are called to be members of God’s family, the Church.
- The students will become acquainted with the rite of the Sacrament of Baptism.
- The students will share information about their own Baptism.
- The students will enter into prayer and speak quietly to the Lord.

Materials:

- Baptismal robe and candle
- Small bowl of water
- Crayons
- Activity paper
- Baby doll

Procedure:

1. Ask your students if they know the date of their birthday.
 2. Invite your students to discuss how they think their families prepared for their birth: Buying furniture, baby clothes, baby food ‘ etc.
3. Present to your students a scenario that depicts what happened when they came home from the hospital. Let one of the steps be that their family called their parish priest to arrange a date to have them baptized.
4. Explain to your students that just as they belong to a special family (call students by their last names), their families knew that it was important that they become members of God’s family, the Church.

5. Ask your students if they know what happened when they were baptized.
 - What did the priest or deacon pour over their head?
 - What words were said as the water was being poured on their head?
 - What name did their parents choose for them when they were baptized?
 - Who were their Godparents?

6. If time permits, allow students an opportunity to role play a Baptism

Activity

- Hand out the worksheet to the students.
- Direct students to draw drops of water over the head of the baby.
- Trace over or copy the words that the priest or deacon says when pouring the water over the person's head.

Follow Up

- Ask students to bring in a picture or some memorabilia of their baptism.
- Begin the next day's lesson with a short review and a sharing from your students.



I baptize you, in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Primary Lesson – Day 2

Prayer: Listening and Speaking to God

Overview:

In this lesson students will understand that:

- It is important to communicate with one another
- We communicate (speak and listen) to God by PRAYING
- We should always listen when God says to us in our hearts,
- Through our parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches, and other good grown-ups who are taking care of us.

In building upon these points, the catechist sets the stage for young children to learn that we listen and speak to God when we pray

Catechism of the Catholic Church

“The catechesis of children, young people and adults aims at teaching them to meditate on the Word of God in personal prayer, practicing it in liturgical prayer; and internalizing it at all times in order to bear fruit in a new life.

Catechesis is also a time for the discernment and education of popular piety. The memorization of basic prayers offers an essential support to the life of prayer, but it is important to help learners savor their meaning.

Catechism of the Catholic Church Part 4 “Guides for Prayer” 2687

Objectives:

- The students will understand that the word “communicates” means to talk and listen to one another.
- We communicate with God when we pray.
- Prayer is speaking and listening to God and God speaks and listens to us.
- We should pray to God everyday.

Materials:

- Cell phone
- Card, notepaper. envelope
- Computer or picture of one
- Activity sheet

Procedure:

- Explain to your students that they are going to learn a new word today and that the word is COMMUNICATE.
- Give examples or demonstrate how we communicate:
 - I see my friend on the bus or in the school yard-we speak to one another- we COMMUNICATE.
 - I call my grandmother and invite her to my birthday party. She asks me some questions and we begin to talk. We COMMUNICATE.
- Before phones or computers, people who lived far away communicated by writing letters.
- St. Paul, a special follower of Jesus, communicated to the early Christians by writing letters to the people. We have these letters today in God's holy book, the Bible.

Discussion Questions:

- How do babies communicate? (They make noises, sounds, cry)
- How do people who are not able to speak communicate? (write, use sign language)
- Why is it important to communicate with one another?
- It is also important to communicate with God.
Does anyone know the word that means we communicate with God?
- Where can we speak to God?
- How does God speak to us?

Reflection:

Sometimes we have to listen very carefully to what God is saying to us. He might tell us to be extra nice to someone or to go over and cheer someone up in the schoolyard. God might remind us to do our homework extra well. Sometimes, God speaks to us through our teachers, parents, grandparents, coaches or other good adults.

As we grow up we will ask God to let us know what He wants us to do with our lives. We will need to listen very carefully and remember to always take time to 'communicate with him.

Activity:

- Direct students to say the Our Father prayerfully with you.
- Guide students to pray to God in their hearts. (Give students time to relax their bodies, close their eyes, take several deep breaths and try to keep their bodies very still.)
- Now tell your students that now they are ready to enter their special "heart room."
- Tell your students that now they can speak quietly to Jesus and tell him any they wish.

- After a few moments, ask if anyone would like to share what Jesus said to them in their hearts.
- Remind your students to always remember to communicate with God by praying. He loves each of us very much and always wants to hear from us.
- Teach children the following song that will help them remember to talk to God:

Tune: Farmer in the Dell

We love to speak to God.

We love to speak to God.

We speak and listen in our hearts.

We communicate with God

Follow Up:

- Ask your students to think of a special prayer that they would like to share with their classmates.
- Begin the next day's lesson with a short review of the words: "communicate" "prayer"
- Have students volunteer to make up their own prayers.
- Direct them to draw a picture of themselves praying to God on a piece of paper outlined as a heart.

Primary Lesson – Day 3 **Grades K, 1 and 2**

Mary Says Yes to God

Overview:

In this lesson students will understand that:

- God calls each of us to do a special job here on earth.
- A vocation is a special way that we serve the Lord.
- God asked Mary to do a very important job –to be the mother of His Son, Jesus.

In building upon these points, the catechist sets the stage for young children to:

- Learn that we are all called to be God’s loving children
- As we grow older, we should ask God to help us know who He wants us to be so that we can serve Him.
- Mary, our Mother, by her obedience shows us how we can love God

Catechism of the Catholic Church

“Parents should respect and encourage their children’s vocations. They should remember and teach that the first calling of the Christian is to follow Jesus.

Catechism of the Catholic Church “Life in Christ” 2253

Objectives:

- The students will understand the meaning of the word VOCATION.
- The students will recognize different ways we can give praise to God by what we do.
- The students will come to know that a special type of VOCATION is a Religious Vocation.
- The students will recognize the following people as those having a Religious vocation: priest, brother, deacon, sister,

Materials

- Picture of Our Blessed Lady
- Pictures of families, priests, sisters, doctors, workers, etc.
- Activity sheet
- Hymn: **HAIL MARY-GENTLE WOMAN** by Cary Landry

Procedure

1. What is a vocation?

- Discuss with your students what they think they might want to be when they grow up. Explain that God wants each of us to be his loving children and as we grow older, we should ask God what He wants us to be so that we can serve Him with a loving heart.
- Present the word VOCATION
Tell the students that a vocation is a call and a special way we live our lives. Explain to them that right now their vocation is to be a student in school, to be a good son or daughter, brother or sister, and friend. Later on, their vocation might be to be a mom or dad, a priest, a sister, doctor, firefighter, police officer or even a teacher.

2. Mary says yes to God

Proceed in story form explaining:

Today I'm going to tell you a story about a young girl who prayed to God and always listened to what He told her to do. The young girl's name is Mary. She lived many years ago in a small town far away called Nazareth. When she was a little girl Mary always listened to her mother and father. She did whatever they told her to do. Mary's parents taught her to speak and listen to God. Every day she took some time to do this.

One day, while she was sitting quietly, a special messenger from God came to visit her. He was the Angel Gabriel. Mary was very frightened, but she tried to listen carefully to what the angel said. The angel Gabriel said:

Hail Mary, full of grace!

The Lord is with you.

Mary, will you be the mother of God's Son?

After the angel left Mary prayed to God and asked Him to help her understand this special message.

3. Praying to God

Sometimes we must listen very carefully to what God is saying to us. He might tell us to be extra nice to someone or to go over and cheer someone up in the school yard, God might remind us to do our best work in school and to try extra hard. Sometimes God speaks to us through our parents, teachers, grandparents, priests or other good adults.

As we get older, we will ask God to let us know what He wants us to do with our lives. We will need to listen carefully and remember to always say 'yes' to Him.

Discussion Questions:

- What is the first thing God wants each of us to be? *His loving children*
- What is a VOCATION?
- What are some vocations that we can be?
- Who listened to God speak to her?

- What did Mary say to God when He asked her to be the mother of His Son?
- What should we do each day to know what God wants us to do? *Pray*

Activity:

- Have children fold a piece of paper in four.
 - In the first square, print the word PRAY.
 - In the second square, print YES
 - In the third square have them draw a heart and
 - In the fourth square have them draw a picture of their face.
- Ask them what they think the message means that they have put on the paper.
- Remind the children to say the prayer:

Dear God, tell me what you want me to do, and I will do it.

Follow Up:

- Have the children find pictures in magazines of various jobs that people have. Make a class booklet. Allow children time to look at the booklet and remind them to say a prayer for people who do these particular jobs.
- Guide students in making up their own prayers for people who serve us. *Ex. Dear God , bless all doctors, nurses, and emergency helpers.*
- Have children draw pictures of those people who serve others in a religious vocation. *Ex. A priest saying Mass, a brother helping a poor person build a house, a sister teaching children or visiting the sick, a deacon baptizing a baby.*

PRIMARY LESSON DAY FOUR

Grades K, 1 and 2

Holy People Who Listened to God's Call

Overview:

- In this lesson students will identify holy people who said 'yes' to God and how they said yes.
- Students will connect the special call of priests with the call of the Apostles.
- Students will understand that we are all called to be followers of Jesus- his disciples.
- Some people follow Jesus in a special serving God's people as a priest, Brother, deacon, sister,

In building upon these points, the catechist sets the stage for young children to learn that Jesus calls each one of us to be his disciple. He also calls some people to serve him in a special way as a priest, deacon, brother or sister.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

The whole church is a priestly people. Through Baptism, all the faithful share in the priesthood of Christ. This participation is called the common priesthood of the faithful. Based on this common priesthood and ordered to its service, there exists another participation in the mission of Christ: the ministry conferred by the sacrament of Holy Orders, where the task is to serve in the name and in the person of Christ, the Head in the midst of the community.

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1591

Objectives:

- The students will understand that Jesus called 12 men to be His special followers and called them His Apostles
- The students will read in the Gospel stories how Jesus called the 12 Apostles
- The students will understand that many people followed and listened to Jesus. These people were called disciples.
- The students will come to know that Jesus calls each of us to be his disciple.

Materials:

- Picture of the 12 apostles or the Last Supper
- Cut out fish with discussion question answers
- Fishing net
- Pictures of priests, sisters, deacons: www.thecatholickid.com
- Crayons, markers
- Note card invitation
- Songs:
 - "By Name I Have Called You"
 - "Yes, Lord, Yes"
 - "I Say Yes, My Lord"

Procedure

1. Choose one of the following Gospel stories of the call of the Apostles.
Matthew 4:18-22 Mark 1:16-22 Luke 5:1-11 John 1:34-51
2. Discuss the story events with the children and develop the following concepts with them:
 - Jesus talked to many people about God, His loving Father, and told them how to love Him and one another.
 - The Apostles were Jesus' special followers and were the first priests.
 - The priests tell us of God's great love for us.
 - People who listen carefully to Jesus and try to follow his ways are called **disciples**.
 - Other people who say yes to the call of Jesus to follow him in a special way are **deacons, religious sisters and brothers**. They share their gifts with all of us in special ways, helping us to know and love God through their ministry.

Discussion Questions:

- Who did Jesus first call to be His followers? *The 12 Apostles*
- What did Jesus tell them to do? *Come, follow Me.*
- What did Jesus promise that they would become? *Fishers of men.*
- When did the Apostles become priests? *At the Last Supper*
- When we follow Jesus and are loving and kind what do we become? *His disciples*
- Who takes the place of the apostles today? *The priests*
- What are some of the names of the priests in your parish?
- What do the priests do for us? *Celebrate Mass, give us the Sacraments, teach us about Jesus, tell us how to help others*
- Who helps the priests to tell the Good News of Jesus' love? *Deacons, priests, sisters*
- How can you be a disciple?

Activity:

- Print the answers for the Discussion Questions on cut-out fish.
- Using paper clips, have students who answer correctly place the 'fish word' on the net.
- Invite students to give ideas for what to write to their parish priest and to invite him to your classroom.
- Discuss pictures of priests, brothers, deacons, and sister.
- Have children explain how each of them helps Jesus.
- Direct students to fold a piece of paper into four. Have them draw a picture of the different people whom they have learned about who serve the Lord.

Follow Up

- Review the song taught earlier this week
Song Tune: Farmer in the Dell
We love to speak to God
We love to speak to God.
We speak and listen in our hearts,
We communicate with God.
- Ask students to think of a special prayer to share with their classmates.
- Begin the next day's lesson with a short review of the words:
communicate, prayer, vocations

Lesson Plans for National Vocation Awareness Week – USCCB

Vocation Lesson One: You Belong to Me! Grades K - 3

Objective:

To reinforce the reality that we are special in God's eyes and that we belong to Him through the gift of our baptism.

Materials:

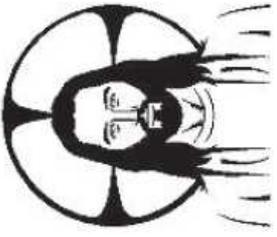
Copies of "*You Belong to Me*" Worksheet

Procedure:

Begin with a short prayer and a song like "I am special." Sitting in a circle, ask the children to tell what they know about baptism from their experiences, as well as facts about the sacrament. Teach them about the sacrament, especially that we become God's children and belong to him through this sacrament. Ask "Do you know anything about Jesus' baptism? How old was he? Where was he? Who was there with him?" Read/tell the story of Jesus' baptism from Luke 3:15-16, 21-22. Talk about how God the Father called him his beloved son. Discuss that they are beloved children too and especially blessed through baptism too. Remind them that God calls each of us to belong to him in a special way and to live the vocation he gives us. Follow with the "*You belong to Me*" worksheet.

Activity:

Distribute "*You Belong to Me*" worksheet. Ask students to draw their first name and color it. Make a yarn hanger. Invite them to hang it where it is a reminder that they are loved by God and that he has called them by name. Ask them to find out the date of their baptism and write it under their name so that they can remember the day they became his child.



You Belong To Me!

Draw your name and color it.

“You,

are My beloved child. You are special in My eyes.”

Lesson Plans for National Vocation Awareness Week – USCCB

Vocation Lesson Two: By Our Actions We Bring Peace Grades K - 3

Objective:

To teach that, like Jesus, our actions can bring peace to others.

Materials:

Copies of "*By Our Actions We Bring Peace*" Worksheet

Procedure:

Ask students to sit quietly and tell them you are going to darken the room, light a candle and play peaceful instrumental music. Invite them to find the quiet place in their hearts and listen to the music. After a few minutes, fade the music out and give them a chance to say how they felt and what they were thinking about during that time. Remind them that at Jesus' baptism, his Father told him that he was especially loved. Jesus remembered those words and he went out into the villages, telling others about God's love for them too. Jesus treated people in a kind way. Ask students to tell what Jesus did to show kindness to others. Ask "How do you think this made the people feel after Jesus did these things?" After they share, tell the children that his actions brought peace to the people who believed in him. It was a little like the quiet peace they knew when they listened to the music. Ask "In what ways can you bring peace to others?" Let them give some suggestions. Remind them that when we sit quietly, we can listen to God in our hearts and he helps us know how to share his peace with others. End with a prayer of your own or use these words: *Dear Jesus, help me to bring peace to my world by my actions. Help me to be kind to others. Help me to play fairly. Help me to share your gifts with others. Thank you, Jesus. Amen.*

Activity:

Distribute "*By Our Actions We Bring Peace*" Worksheet. Ask students to complete the sentence and illustrate their idea.



By Our Actions We Bring Peace

I can help Jesus bring peace to the world by

This is a picture of me bringing peace to my world.

Lesson Plans for National Vocation Awareness Week – USCCB

Vocation Lesson One

Grades 4 - 6

Objective:

Students will identify gifts and talents in others and in themselves.

Students will apply their gifts and talents to be followers of Jesus by generating a plan that uses their gifts and talents as tools of service to others.

Materials:

Holy cards of saints or pictures of famous people

Copies of “**Gift**” Worksheet

Procedure:

This lesson may be introduced by presenting students with pictures of saints or famous people with whom they might be familiar. Ask them to name talents and gifts which they see and respect in others. As students name gifts and talents, list them on the board.

After a considerable list has been made, ask the students to take a few moments to consider which talents they see in themselves.

Ask the students to complete the first three boxes in the **Gift Worksheet**. ("Some of my gifts are...", "The gift I like best is...", "One gift I want to develop is...")

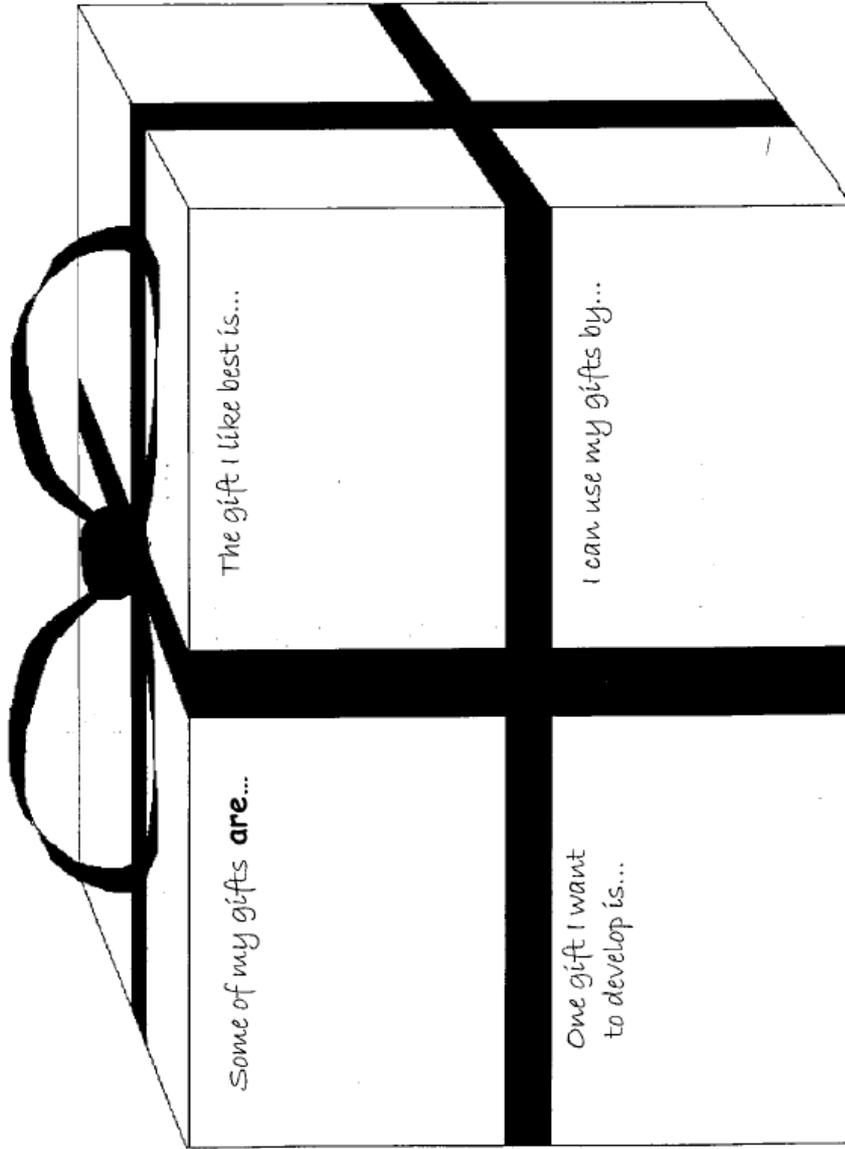
After the worksheet has been completed, discuss the following concepts with the students:

-We are all uniquely different from each other. God has given us different gifts and talents. Many of us may have the same talents, but because of other talents and the combination of these, we are different.

-Through our Baptism, we are given the gift of being a child of God and called to be a disciple of Jesus. Each of us is also called to follow Him in a special way through our personal vocation. Our gifts and talents will be used by the Lord as we live out that vocation. By using our talents we come to know and love Jesus more and more and we also make the world we live in a better place.

Ask the students to reflect on the **Gift Worksheet** and on what has been presented. Invite them to consider how God might use each gift they listed in the possible vocation He may call them to. Add these to Box 4 of the Gift Worksheet.

The Gifts God Gave Me...



Lesson Plans for National Vocation Awareness Week – USCCB

Vocation Lesson Two: By Our Actions We Bring Peace Grades 4 - 6

Objectives:

Students will understand how the saints were ready to be what the Lord called them to be.

Students will recognize the various vocations in the different Christian states of life.

Materials:

Stories of saints who were married, who were priests, who were consecrated religious and who were consecrated lay persons living in the world. Some good examples are St. Joseph, St. Louis, St. Jane de Chantal, St. John Vianney, St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Martin de Porres, St. Catherine of Siena, & Blessed Pierre Frassati.

Copies of "*Vocation Word Search*" Worksheet

Procedure:

Have ready short biographies of saints from different states in life.
The children could be asked to do this for homework to share in class.

Read aloud a sampling of the different saints.

Consider how God called them each to become holy in their particular vocation.

What special virtues did God help each of them grow in through their vocations?
Use some of the words from the *Vocation Word Search Worksheet*.

Activity:

Distribute *Vocation Word Search Worksheet* to complete.

Vocation Word Search Worksheet

D O C I L E C F A I T H B A S F K
 M B O E E P O H N Y D I S C E R N
 A E U M R R L E O S I S T E R E E
 R D R V A E T J I I E P N T V E E
 R I A L P S V I N N C Q E Z E A L
 I E G O I P S E T U Z E L O V E T
 A N E L P O V E R T Y U A N I M F
 G C B E L N C G L O R Y T I R U P
 E E E P I S T L E B Y C B C S E R
 N X J S O E H B O R I A M L A N O
 O E P O P Y E O N P L B I C E B M
 I V I G R A C E L U S I E D Y A I
 T M A T I A X W I Y N L M T A P S
 A B O S E L T S O P A E R D F T E
 C L W P S A L M B R O T H E R I L
 O O G Y T I T C N A S R V E H S G
 V K C H A S T I T Y R E T S Y M C

- 1) Baptism
- 2) Mystery
- 3) Pray
- 4) Grace
- 5) Celibacy
- 6) Purity
- 7) Promise
- 8) Talents
- 9) Discern
- 10) Apostle
- 11) Nun
- 12) Peace
- 13) Priest
- 14) Deacon
- 15) Brother
- 16) Sister
- 17) Serve
- 18) Gospel
- 19) Listen
- 20) Response
- 21) Anoint
- 22) Obedience
- 23) Poverty
- 24) Psalm
- 25) Chastity

- 26) Choice
- 27) Docile
- 28) Epistle
- 29) Vocation
- 30) Courage
- 31) Revere
- 32) Kneel
- 33) Pope
- 34) Gift
- 35) Bible
- 36) Love
- 37) Hope
- 38) Faith
- 39) Marriage
- 40) Vows
- 41) Zeal
- 42) Assent
- 43) Free
- 44) Joy
- 45) Act
- 46) Holy
- 47) Seed
- 48) Sanctity
- 49) Glory

Lesson Plans for National Vocation Awareness Week – USCCB

Vocation Lesson One

Grades 7 - 8

Objectives:

1. Students will identify the vocations to married life, to consecrated single life, to religious life, and to the priesthood.
2. Students will recognize the uniqueness of each person's call to follow Christ and will understand the difference between their Vocation and a professional career.
3. Students will begin to understand the vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience.
4. Students will contrast the vows of a religious with the promises that a priest makes.

Materials:

Flash cards of names of various service professions.

Flash cards of various men's and women's religious orders and of the diocesan priesthood.

Web links:

<http://www.religiouslife.com/> . . .

<http://www.cmswr.org/> . . .

Priests or religious who may visit class and discuss their vocations.

Writing and drawing supplies

Procedure:

1. Review with students that our Baptism is a call to the fullness of life. Our vocation is the special way which God wants to give us that fullness of life through love. Identify the vocations to married life, to consecrated single life, to religious life and to the priesthood.
2. Ask the students to name some service professions and how each can be particularly Christian. For example, nursing and all health care professions reflect the caring and healing Christ; teaching and learning reflect Jesus the teacher (Rabbi); construction workers reflect Jesus the carpenter of Nazareth. Use the flash cards to help prompt student responses.
3. Now focus on the vocations to priesthood and religious life and how these same "jobs" can be a way of serving Christ and others. Discuss the different apostolates of religious congregations and how the priesthood shares in the healing, teaching and guiding work of Christ.
4. Emphasize that a vocation to priesthood or religious life is a call to love Christ in a special way and that the work is really secondary. Have students research the following topics using texts or by interviewing people. They may work in groups and come up with a presentation on the following topics. Encourage them to generate a visual that helps illustrate their main points.

Religious sisters and brothers: respond to their call by choosing to live in a community with others who are called to serve people through religious life. They publicly solemnize their response to God by making three vows of poverty, celibacy and obedience. Religious life is one special way of being Christian.

Poverty: Through this vow to God, religious men and women want to have Jesus' attitude toward material things. They try to live a life of sharing. The deepest reason for making a vow of poverty is love. When Gospel poverty is accepted as a way of life it means a person lives simply and willingly shares who he is and what he has.

Chastity: Through this vow to God, religious and priests promise not to marry and promise to love and help all people freely. They freely and joyfully give up the privilege of marrying and having children because they want to be free to love and help all who need them. The vow of chastity lets them be free to think and work only for the Kingdom of God. The vow of chastity also frees them to remind us that God and the Kingdom must always be first in the lives of all Christians.

Obedience: Religious by their vow of obedience to God promise to seek and do His will, working together with others in their community to try to understand what God is asking of them in their lives. They promise to listen to God with and in their communities. They promise to find out and follow the will of God together and to obey their superiors, especially in the decision of where they will serve the people of God.

Diocesan priests: Diocesan priests are called to serve God's people in celibate love through their ministry of the sacraments of the Church and by teaching and proclaiming the Gospel through their lives of generous service. Rather than serving the Church in distant lands, diocesan priests are generally called to live and work among the people of their home diocese.

5. After these presentations, invite students to share their thoughts and feelings about these vows. If a priest or religious is available, it would be an excellent follow-up for them to answer any questions.

6. Explain to the students the difference between the above vows and the promises of obedience and celibacy that diocesan priests make at ordination.

Activity:

In closing, have students write one paragraph that completes the statement below.

"It is important that we have priests, brothers and sisters serving in the Church because...."

Lesson Plans for National Vocation Awareness Week – USCCB

Vocation Lesson Two: By Our Actions We Bring Peace Grades 7 - 8

Objectives:

To realize that prayer is essential for baptized Christians in discovering their call to serve.

Materials:

Bible

Music

Copies of "*Listen!*" **Worksheet**

Procedure:

Refer back to Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7. What was God asking his chosen servant to do? Name at least 5 types of service you can do and how they serve God's people. You may want to discuss a service project for the class to do. Invite students to become quieted for prayer.

Activity:

Introduce the prayer service with the following or something similar: Consider that before Jesus did anything important, He went off by Himself and prayed. Before He began His public ministry after John baptized Him, He prayed for forty days. Before he gave the Sermon on the Mount, He prayed alone. Before He chose His apostles, He prayed for guidance. Before He entered into His passion and death, He prayed with His disciples at the Last Supper and in the Garden of Gethsemane. (Reading the passages of Scripture for these would be good.)

Praying before acting is a virtue of the disciples of Christ. Praying for guidance is sometimes called praying for discernment or for an understanding of God's will so it can be accomplished. Discerning requires listening.

Jesus taught us to pray. How did He do that? By giving us the Our Father.

Together pray SLOWLY the Our Father and think about how He may be asking you to follow and serve Him.

Have you ever been to a museum? Maybe you saw and admired a dish that was 1000 years old. Someone created it to use on a table, to carry or hold something, to serve others in its own unique way. The potter never considered that the bowl might be admired by people hundreds of years later. Like the bowl, God created us to serve others in our own unique way.

Distribute *Listen! Worksheet* to complete.

Listen!

DISCERNING REQUIRES LISTENING

