

Archdiocese of Philadelphia - Vocation Awareness Week Unit Plan

Title of unit: Answering God's Call

Grade level: Fourth Grade

Approximate time needed for unit completion: 1 week

Proposed Start Date: Monday of Vocation Awareness Week

DESIRED RESULTS

Common Core State Standards:

W4.2 – Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly

L4.3 – Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking and listening

Enduring Understandings:

- **Overarching:** God calls us to follow His plan for us.
- **Topical:** Students learn that by praying and creating a personal relationship with God they can respond to God's call.

Essential Questions:

- What is a vocation?
- How can I determine God's plan for me?
- How is the word of God spread within each vocation?
- How can I follow in the example of the saints to fulfill my vocation?

Student Objectives:

Lesson 1 – I can identify the 3 vocations and write about how our gifts bring us closer to God.

Lesson 2 – I can describe the steps it takes to be a priest, and ways we can evangelize to others.

Lesson 3 – I can name ways that I can be more like a saint and write about why St. John Paul II is an excellent model for Catholics

Lesson 4 – I can compare and contrast 2 different vocations using a graphic organizer

Lesson 5 – I can describe different apostolate of religious life and write what I learned about saints of various vocations.

ASSESSMENT EVIDENCE

Students will be assessed through their participation in whole and small group discussion, as well as their completion of the writing activities throughout the week.

MATERIALS and RESOURCES

- Vocation Unit Plan
- Vocation Prayer – on PPT
- Religion Copybook or paper
- Crayons/colored pencils
- PowerPoint slides – necessary for teacher for access to some stories, helpful to display for students throughout the week
- Writing examples
- Story of JP II
- Coat of Arms paper
- Optional video clips – linked to PPT

LEARNING PLAN

Day 1 Use PowerPoint to guide through the lesson

Date(s) _____

- **Begin** with vocation prayer
- **Introduce** vocations week. God created us to love and serve Him. He has a special plan for all of us. This plan is our vocation.
- **Explain** that we all have gifts that God has given us. The talents and gifts God gave us will help us decide which way God is calling us to serve Him.
- This week we focus on 3 vocations – *priesthood, religious life and married life*
- God makes us all in a unique way; some people are artistic, quiet, and thoughtful while others are energetic, funny and outgoing. God wants us to use our gifts and unique personalities to serve Him and follow His call
- **Brainstorm** – Think of people you know or have heard of who are priests.
- **Work** with a partner to come up with words that describe that person List them in a word web in your religion copybook
- **Write About It** – Write a paragraph stating how someone's personality traits and/or gifts help them in their vocation. For example, if one of the words you used in your web is friendly, how does being friendly help you when you're a priest? See example
- Done early? Under your paragraph draw a picture of the person you described.
- **Share**
Recap – ask the following questions
 - 1) Why did God create us?
 - 2) What are the different vocations?
 - 3) How can our gifts help us in our vocations?

Day 2: Use PowerPoint to guide through the lesson

Date(s) _____

- **Begin** with Vocation prayer
- **Review** that our gifts help us fulfill our vocations
- Today we discuss the vocation of the Priesthood
 - If time allows, have a priest come in and tell his Vocation Story and share his application experience and everyday life as a priest
- **Create** a KWL chart in copybooks on Priests
- **Discuss** as a whole group and copy KWL with student answers on board
- **Share** that priests say special prayers each day, celebrate Mass, hear Confession, Baptize new Christians, visit the sick, give people advice, and help couples get married. They also do regular everyday things like talk with family and go out with friends, they can play sports, read books go to the movies. Priests are everyday men who God is calling to help him bring people closer to Him.
- **Discuss** the steps of becoming a priest:
- Enroll in seminary – Visit the Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood website (HeedtheCall.org/poster) to watch seminarian videos (2 minutes each – see PowerPoint)
- Ordained a deacon – discuss the role of a deacon
- Priesthood – a man receives the sacrament of Holy Orders by a bishop and becomes a priest – see PowerPoint slide
- Bishops/ Cardinals – discuss the role of bishops, run diocese, confirmations, some are Cardinals who elect the Pope – see PowerPoint slide
- Pope – leader of Catholic Church, voice of Christ on Earth. Ask students if they know who the Pope is? Where does he live?
- **Read** the message of Pope Francis to young people? *“You too dear young people can be joyful witnesses of his love, courageous witnesses of his Gospel, carrying to this world a ray of His light”*
- **Discuss** with a partner what this message means
- **Write About It** – How can you carry Jesus’ light to the world?
- Class should share their insights
- **Conclude** - Tomorrow we will learn about a different Pope and his call to priesthood

Day 3: Use PowerPoint to guide through the lesson

Date(s) _____

- **Recap** – Yesterday we discussed the process of becoming a priest and read a quote from Pope Francis
- **Ask** the students if they know any other Popes?
- **Read** the story about John Paul II and his call to the priesthood.
- **Write About It**– Why is Pope St. John Paul II a great model for Catholics? How can you be more like Pope St. John Paul II?

- **Create** Coat of Arms – see paper
Create your own Coat of Arms – On it draw and color symbols that represent you and your Catholic faith.
- **Share** writing and Coat of Arms with class.
- **Conclude** by telling the students that tomorrow we will be learning about the call to marriage.

Day 4: Use PowerPoint to guide through the lesson

Date(s) _____

- **Introduce** the vocation of marriage
- **Explain** - When you enter into the sacrament of marriage you grow in holiness and help your husband or wife get to Heaven
- **Explain** - When you get married you promise to love your spouse forever. The promises you make on your wedding day are called vows.
- **Read** about Saints Louis and Zelie Martin
- **Compare and Contrast** the vocations of marriage and priesthood. - in copybook
- **Write About It** – What are ways a married person can help their spouse get to Heaven?
- **Recap** - How are marriage and priesthood similar?
- Why are they both vocations?
- How can married couples bring one another closer to God?
- **Conclude** – Tomorrow the focus will be on the final vocation – religious life

Day 5: Use PowerPoint to guide through the lesson

Date(s) _____

- **Begin** with Vocation prayer
- **Introduce** the vocation to religious life
- **Ask** the students if they know any brothers or sisters?
- **Explain** that some men are called to be monks and some women are called to be nuns.
- **Review** the word apostolate. Different religious orders have different jobs or apostates. Discuss what the life of a nun or monk is like. – Praying, teaching, helping poor/sick, mission work etc.
- **Read** about Elizabeth Ann Seton
- **Answer** the questions: What was Elizabeth's vocation – (marriage, then religious life)
- How did she do God's work? – started Catholic school, cared for her family, the sick and poor
- **Write About It** - Think about the saints that were discussed this week. Who was your favorite to learn about and why?
- **Recap** – What is a vocation? – God's plan for us that will bring us closer to Him
 - 1) What are the 3 vocations we discussed this week? – Priesthood, married, religious
 - 2) How can we determine our vocation? – developing a strong prayer life