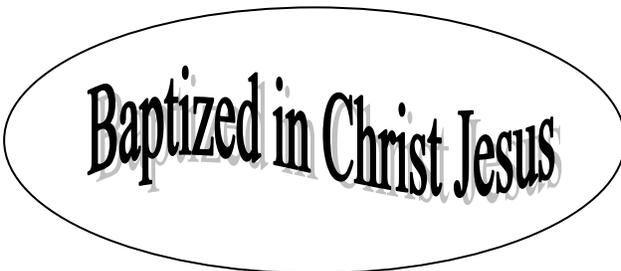


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SerraUSA has produced this resource for the celebration of World Day of Prayer for Vocations. There are many other vocation resources that are



NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

November 1-7, 2015

YEAR B

The Solemnity of All Saints

- Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14
 - Psalm 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
 - 1 John 3:1-3
 - Matthew 5:1-12a
-

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NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

November 1-7, 2015

Homily Notes

THE SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

YEAR B

Fr. David, a newly ordained priest, visits the 2nd grade students of the parish school on a cold January day. Filled with excitement and zeal for his new ministry, Fr. David is inspired to share with the students about his life and his vocation. He says, “Good morning boys and girls, I am Fr. David, and I am here to speak to you about something special. I am going to speak to you of my vocation.” The students sit up straight as they begin to listen attentively. He continues, “A long time ago, when I was a bit older than you are, I thought God was asking me to do some special things with my life – to help people, to love God and Jesus, and to bring hope to people who were having a difficult time. You see, when I was baptized, God gave me the gift of my vocation. This vocation is a special gift. It is to be shared.” As the school children looked wide-eyed. Fr. David asked them, “So what do you think God wants you to do with your vocation?” Johnny starts waving his hand high, eager to share his insight. Johnny stood up and proudly proclaimed, “For my vocation, me and my family are off to Disney World!”

We might expect that the concept of vocation may be difficult for a young person to understand. However, we may be surprised how many adults can easily misunderstand the concept of vocation, especially as it pertains to their life. As we see the declining numbers of priests, sisters and brothers working in ministry, we can be gripped by the fear that we are in a vocation shortage. Do we have a vocation shortage today? The simple answer is “No!” We in fact do not have a vocation shortage! Why? When we reflect on the nature of vocation perhaps it would be good for us to sit with Fr. David and the 2nd grade class to understand that we ALL in fact have been called, through our baptism to live a life in Christ, filled with Gospel values, to share with one another the Good News of Jesus in our daily life. We might live this vocation as a religious, a priest or deacon. Perhaps we might live it as a mom or a dad, a husband, or a wife. We might live this vocation as a single person. How we understand our call to live these Gospel values in our life is our discernment of our vocation. So do we have a vocation shortage? No! We are all called to see and understand that gift of our vocation.

A few years ago, author Russell Shaw wrote an article in America, a Catholic periodical. The title was, “What Vocation Shortage?” He wrote about the personal vocation that we all have. And, wrote about how the majority of us don’t see that our life choices are actually vocations. He writes, “The idea of personal vocation is the antidote. Everybody has one – God calls every member of the church by name. Seen in this light, the challenge is not to find out whether you have a vocation, but to identify the vocation you unquestionably have.”

We all have a vocation. We are invited to understand how the choices that we have already made in life are an extension and call from our own baptism. What was the giftedness from God that called us to become the mature faith-filled person we are today? And we might ask, “Where do we still need to grow in our Christian life?” “What is stirring in our hearts, moving us to follow Christ with the gift of our life?”

Today we remember all the saints who join the angels in heaven with God our Father. During their life on earth they were examples of Christian fidelity, trust, truth and love. We read in today’s first reading from the Book of Revelation that these saints endured many challenges and with the angels have prepared a place for all us. In our second reading from John reminds us that we are God’s children and when revealed we will be like Christ Jesus. We must dare to be a saint. We are not born saints we must work toward our sainthood. Matthew clearly describes the beatitudes in our Gospel reading that summons all of us to something more beautiful. A reminder of our potential the promise in each and every one of us the promise of holiness and today we turn to the saints for intercession and help.

But how do we answer the call of discipleship and to holiness? What does this all say about vocation? If we want peace and God’s love to reign here and now, then we are invited to do what Jesus did: to love, to find opportunities to love, to be compassionate. We are challenged to show mercy as God shows mercy. Will we ever live out this vocation perfectly? Probably not.

In discerning a call as a priest, my vocation has led me to understand that I have been called to serve; to be in the places where people are hurting and where people are celebrating life. It was in the rough and challenging situations of life where I seemed to experience God most strongly in my life. So I have had a sense of what I wanted to do, but the real question however, was “How?” That was what the heart of my discernment was all about. How was I to live my life, being faithful to the stirrings in my heart calling me to service? I could have been married, or have remained single, and still have responded to God’s invitation. But my life as a [religious and a] priest made the most sense to me.

So, during this Vocation Awareness Week pay attention to how is God calling you? What difference is the message of the parables, teachings, and words of Jesus doing in your life right now? What are the experiences in your life that you and God can look at together and see a deeper meaning that can in turn have an impact for your future?

God has not given up on us..... on you... or on me. At this point in our lives, in the life of our church and of our community here, God is asking us all to be open; to be open to the gifts that have been given to us in baptism; to be open to the deeper message of our life experiences; to be open to the quiet and gentle stirrings in our hearts that move us closer to understanding what God is calling us to in our life.

Whenever we are invited to look at our life in light of God’s vision and call of our heart, we might want to be like Johnny and prefer that the topic moves from vocation to vacation. In the end, we are called to be open – open to the whisper of God’s gentle Spirit stirring us into action, and open to the voice of God calling us

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NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

November 1-7, 2015

PLANNING KIT

PRIMARY (1-3)

YEAR B

The Solemnity of All Saints

- Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14
- Psalm 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
- 1 John 3:1-3
- Matthew 5:1-12a

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- Lesson Plans
- Activities

PRIMARY LESSON PLANS

Baptized in Christ Jesus

LESSON ONE *Baptized in Christ Jesus*

Objective: To help students understand the signs of the sacrament of Baptism.

Preparation: Duplicate Activity 1, confirm use of baptismal area, invite parish priest to join you.

Process: Take the children to the parish church and the baptismal area. Show them the signs/symbols used at a baptism (baptismal font, oil, candle, holy water, white garment, Easter candle). Explain what each sign means. Read the first line from Paul's letter to the Romans from today's readings. Explain the importance of baptism in our lives and in the Church. Then read the Bible story of the Baptism of Jesus (Luke 3:15, 21-22). Discuss how important it was for Jesus to be baptized so he could teach and share God's life with others. Invite your parish priest to join you and provide helpful information. When the children are back in their classrooms, encourage them to ask their parents about their baptism and if they have any pictures, a candle, etc. from their special day and invite them to bring them to school. Hand out Activity 1. While they are completing the activity, play the song: *Holy, Holy Water (Kids Sing for Jesus, The Rennas, AvilaRose, Inc., WLP.)*. If time allows you might also re-enact a baptism using a baby doll as a prop, demonstrating to the children how the rite takes place in your church. (Be sure to obtain your pastor's permission first.)

LESSON TWO *Jesus Wants Us to Spread the Good News*

Objective: To discuss and share ways we can spread the Christian message to others.

Preparation: Duplicate Activity 2, prepare prayer space, provide candle and bible.

Process: Gather the children in a large circle around a prayer center that includes a candle and a Bible. Review Lesson 1. Ask for volunteers to show the baptismal items they have brought from home. Display these in the prayer center. Invite children to say their first name and remind them that this is the name God calls them and the one they received at their baptism. Discuss ways that, as baptized children of God, they spread the good news with those they meet each day. Discuss the special activities they have shared in during the year such as: food for the poor, rice bowls, drawing birthday cards for the elderly in the parish, visiting a nursing home, etc. Connect their giving by reading and discussing *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein. Distribute Activity 2. After the children have finished, have them cut the strips apart and decorate them. Staple the strips inside one another forming a "Good News Chain". You may add to this chain during the year. The activity and story "linked" together help children understand their call as Christians. Conclude this session by singing: *This Little Light of Mine* or *Jump Up, Get Down (Kids Sing for Jesus, The Rennas, AvilaRose, Inc., WLP.)*.

ACTIVITY 1
Celebrating Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism celebrates our becoming friends with Jesus.
When we are baptized, we become Christians and enter into the Christian family.

There are special signs that are used during Baptism. Draw these special signs and label them
with the following words: Easter candle, white garment, candle, holy water, oil, Bible.

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NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

November 1-7, 2015

PLANNING KIT

INTERMEDIATE (4-6)

YEAR B

The Solemnity of All Saints

- Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14
- Psalm 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
- 1 John 3:1-3
- Matthew 5:1-12a

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- Lesson Plans
- Activities

INTERMEDIATE LESSON PLANS

Baptized in Christ Jesus

LESSON ONE *Called to Serve in Trust, Truth, Faith and Love*

Objective: To help students understand God's call to serve.

Process: Invite students to reflect on their own life. "Recall a time when you felt special. What was the occasion? How did you know that you were special?" Invite a few students to share. Relate this to the reading from Wisdom read 3:1-9. "If you were one of the souls of the just living in the hand of God how might you feel? Special? Privileged? Talk about how those souls/saints who are now in heaven lived their lives on earth to be rewarded with the gift of heaven and God's eternal life. They dedicated their lives to Jesus by going out to use their gifts in trust, truth, faith and love to help others as Jesus taught us. By our baptism with the Holy Spirit we too are called to serve others. Ask: "In what ways do you serve others now?" Invite responses. Discuss how students see priests, sisters, brothers, deacons, married couples, and single people responding to God's call to serve others. Invite your parish priest to share his story with the class.

Distribute Activity 1. Review directions and provide time for the activity and sharing.

LESSON TWO *How can I serve?*

Objective: To learn about God's call and recognize qualities needed to serve.

Process: Review ideas from *Lesson One* and ask a few students to share his/her inspirational motto. Discuss qualities needed to be a good servant. Talk about how people come to know their gifts for service. How do we know that God is calling us? Distribute Activity 2. Invite a student to read aloud 1 Samuel 3:1-10. Ask students to answer the questions about Samuel. After a short time invite students to share their answers. Choose another student to read aloud Luke 1:26-38 and answer the questions about Mary. After a short time invite students to share their answers. Choose a saint (e.g. the patron saint of your parish) and tell his or her story. Answer questions about the saint. Share answers. Students complete #4 about him/her. Invite students to offer responses to #4. End with prayer.

ACTIVITY 1

Answering God's Call

Called by Name

Each person is special and called by God. The Book of Wisdom tells us how special those souls are who are in the hand of God. The Book of Wisdom tells us: *“Those who trust in him shall understand truth and the faithful shall abide with him in love”* (Wisdom 3: 1-9)

Write your name and come up with a phrase that describes you for each letter.

Example: JOHN: Your name:

J - Joyful person
O - Open to God's call
H - Honest Helper
N - Noble friend

Inspiration for Service

Many people find that they need inspiration to stay faithful when they get discouraged. Inspiration can come from different sources. A motto (*a saying that is a principle of behavior; Example: Girl/Boy Scouts “Be prepared”*) can be a source of inspiration that helps encourage you especially when you may want to give up. Choose a personal motto for yourself. You can create your own motto or take a saying from scripture or another source. Write it on a large index card. Decorate it. Use it as a bookmark, put it on the refrigerator or place on your dresser. Keep it where you will see it and say it often.

Examples: *Fear not for I am with you. Isaiah 43:5*
 Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you. Matthew 7:12
 Trust in the Lord and do good. Psalm 37
 Nothing is impossible with God. Luke 1:37
 Be of good courage. Psalm 27
 Hold fast to dreams. Langston Hughes
 I have called you by name, you are mine. Isaiah 43:1

ACTIVITY 2
Stories of Service

1. Listen to the story of the call of Samuel. (1 Samuel 3:1-10)

Who helped Samuel recognize God's call? _____

What was Samuel's response to God? _____

What qualities did Samuel have that helped him serve God? _____

2. Listen to the story about Mary's call.

Who was God's messenger? _____

What was Mary's call to service? _____

What qualities did Mary have? _____

3. Listen to the call of a saint. Name of saint _____

How did the saint know that God was calling? _____

What was his/her call to service? _____

What qualities did s/he have? _____

4. Listen to your heart and recall your story.

How is God speaking to you? _____

What do you feel God is calling you to be and do? _____

What qualities do you have to serve God and others? _____

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NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

November 1-7, 2015

PLANNING KIT

JUNIOR HIGH (7-8)

YEAR B

The Solemnity of All Saints

- Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14
- Psalm 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
- 1 John 3:1-3
- Matthew 5:1-12a

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- Lesson Plans
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JUNIOR HIGH LESSON PLANS

Baptized into Christ Jesus

LESSON ONE *Jesus shows us the way*

Objective: To help students understand how God calls people.

Preparation: Duplicate Activity 1. Bibles and Sunday reading references.

Process: Begin by talking about today as All Souls Day when we remember all those who have gone before us, marked by the sign of faith and are now in heaven with all the saints and angels. These normal people when on earth lived lives of virtue and Christian witness to the faith. We can learn much from their dedication and response to the teachings of Christ and their response to their own baptismal call.

Have the students listen to today's reading from the Book of Wisdom and Paul's letter to the Romans. Discuss what they heard. How are the readings connected? How is the God of the Old Testament who shows grace and mercy like the person of Jesus in the New Testament? If we have been baptized into Christ and have grown in union with him then how should we act as His followers, as his disciples? What kind of life is God calling us to live if we are to gain eternal life in heaven with all the departed? Distribute Bibles and Activity 1. Invite students to find Genesis 12:1–9. Read passage aloud and ask the questions from Activity 1. Assign a passage for each person from the list of Bible call stories. Students answer the questions after they have read the passage. After sufficient time have students gather in groups of 4 or 5 to share their stories. Conclude with time for silent reflection on the final question. Invite some students to share their prayer.

LESSON TWO *What is God calling you to be and do?*

Objective: To learn about God's call to others in the Bible and to recognize how God is calling each person.

Preparation: Duplicate Activity 2. Assemble materials on saints and those who are moved by the Spirit to give witness to the Gospel.

Process: Review what they learned about God's call in the Bible stories they read. Talk about how God has called people throughout the ages and that they are now among the "community of saints." Name some of these people and tell what they did in response to God's call. You may want to refer to some saint books; *Witness to the Gospel* bookmarks (available from NCCV) provide information about more recent people. God continues to call people to live dedicated lives as married and single people, as a priest, brother, sister, deacon. Invite students to reflect on people they know who are serving God in different ways. Ask students to focus on their own lives. How do they hear God's call? Distribute

Activity 2. Allow time to begin work and complete the article for homework. Share and post the articles. Invite your parish priest or other/s to join the class and share how he/she is invited to serve God. You may want to ask them the questions on **Activity 2**.

ACTIVITY 1

Called by God

Throughout the Bible are stories about God’s call to people to serve others. Here are some of the “call stories.”

Genesis 15:1–6

Exodus 3–4

1Samuel 3:1–10

Isaiah 6:1–8

Jeremiah 1:1–10

1Samuel 16:1–13

Matthew 4:18–22

Matthew 9:9–13

Mark 16:14–19

Luke 1:26–38

Luke 5:1–11

Luke 19:1–10

John 20:11–18

Acts 9:1–19

Individual Study

Read the passage you are given. Answer the following questions about God’s call.

- *Where is this story found in the Bible?* _____
- *Who did God call?* _____
- *How did God call?* _____
- *What was the person asked to do?* _____
- *If you were the person called, how would you feel?* _____
- *How would you respond?* _____
- *How did the person respond?* _____

Group Sharing

In small groups tell your Bible passage in your own words. Share your personal reactions to this call. When everyone has finished sharing talk about how these stories are alike and how they are different.

Personal Response

Write a prayer that expresses your feelings about God’s call.

ACTIVITY 2

What is God calling you to be and do?

God calls everyone. You may hear God's call through others, in a voice or feeling inside yourself, and in what you are doing. Your vocation unfolds gradually. Life is something like a treasure hunt. Pay attention to the clues!

Someone you should know!

Create a Face Book page about yourself. You are FB page creator and designer. Tell about yourself in the third person. Give your FB page a title and include a picture of yourself and other relevant activities. Decide with whom you will share your FB page and why? Be careful with your security controls and other issues.

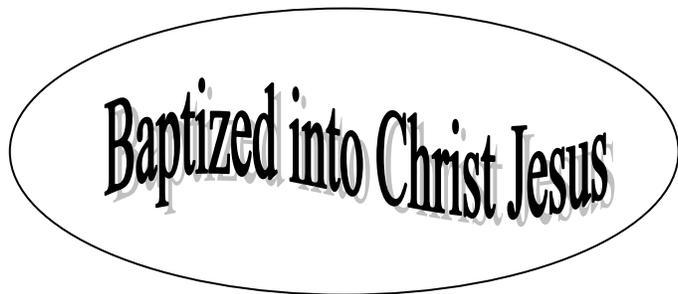
Include answers to the following questions:

- *What is important to you?*
- *What are the talents and gifts that you have to share with others?*
- *How do you try to make a difference?*
- *What is your dream in life now?*
- *What have others said to you to help you see yourself with your talents, interests, and ways to serve others?*
- *Other?*

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NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

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PLANNING KIT

HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)

YEAR B

The Solemnity of All Saints

- Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14
- Psalm 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
- 1 John 3:1-3
- Matthew 5:1-12a

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- Lesson Plans
- Activities

HIGH SCHOOL LESSON PLANS

Baptized into Christ Jesus

LESSON ONE *Listening to the Spirit*

Objective: To help students listen to the Spirit as they realize their gifts and how to share their gifts with others.

Preparation: Arrange chairs in a circle. Place a piece of fabric, candle, bible, and an image of Jesus (3 if possible) in the center. Duplicate Activity 1.

Process: Introduce the lesson by talking about what it means to be baptized into Christ Jesus. Focus on the importance of listening to the Spirit who enables us to know ourselves and gives us the power to do good. Invite students to listen to the Spirit through a guided reflection. Play instrumental music softly. Suggest: “Sit in a comfortable position, eyes closed, breathe deeply several times. As I read a passage from Wisdom 3:1-9, listen for a word or a phrase that stands out for you. Listen from that place deep within yourself. In that place of your heart, speak with God who is calling you by name and inviting you to be one with him.” Read from Wisdom 3: 1-9. *Pause.* Read aloud: “Was there a word that stood out for you?” *Pause.* Continue aloud: “Wisdom said: ‘The souls of the just are in the hand of God.’ *Pause.* “Each of us is were created by the hand of God and gifted with the Spirit. We are called to trust in him, to understand truth be faithful and abide in love. We do this as the Body of Christ and as Christians we are to share our Christ-likeness, our gifts, with others. What gifts has God given to you?” *Pause.* “Name them.” *Pause.* “Give thanks for these gifts.” *Pause.* “Gradually open your eyes and let us conclude our prayer by saying the Our Father together.” Discuss the importance of listening to the Spirit working in us. Relate this passage to Jesus’ mission and how baptism in the Spirit empowered him. Lead into the activity, explaining that the Spirit works through us with our gifts and experiences. Distribute Activity 1. Ask students to choose a classmate for an interview and complete the activity.

LESSON TWO *You Could Make a Difference*

Objective: To expose students to the many ways apostolic religious and diocesan priests serve the Church and our world.

Preparation: Duplicate Activity 2. Assemble materials on saints and those who are moved by the Spirit to give witness to the Gospel.

Process: Open with reflection on the experience of the interviews. Ask: “How can knowledge of our gifts help us follow Jesus?” Discuss how our gifts can be used in service to others. Christian service is called ‘ministry.’ Talk about the variety of ministries that priests, brothers and sisters do today. (educators, pastoral ministers, social workers, nurses, doctors, lawyers, administrators, etc.) Provide stories from *Vision Magazine* (free hard copies 800-942-2811/VocationGuide.org or look online for other sources) or invite speakers to come share their vocation stories. Open general discussion: What inspired the people to share their gifts? Why did they enjoy working with others in their joys and sufferings? Did you learn anything new? Any surprises? Any questions? Distribute Activity 2. Allow about 15 minutes for students to work in small groups to bring a statement in response to the two questions to share with large group. Ask groups to share responses. End by inviting the groups to share their vocation prayers.

ACTIVITY 1

Interviewer _____ **Interviewee** _____

Write down the responses from the person whom you interviewed and then, on a separate sheet, write a short article that describes this person.

1. What background information is important for me to know about you?
2. When you are not in school what do you enjoy doing?
3. What do you want most in life?
4. Name at least 5 gifts/talents you realize about yourself.
5. Try to picture yourself seven years from now. Describe what you hope you will be and what you will be doing with your life.

ACTIVITY 2

Work in small groups and write a group statement to each question. These will be shared in the large group. (15 minutes)

1. In what practical ways can we walk the path of justice and peace in solidarity with the poor? Give specific examples of the ways you or people you know have walked in solidarity with the poor.

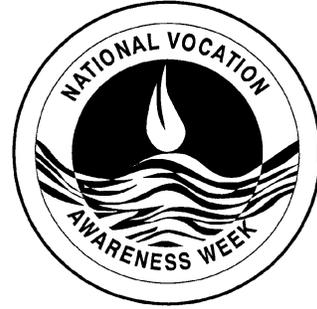
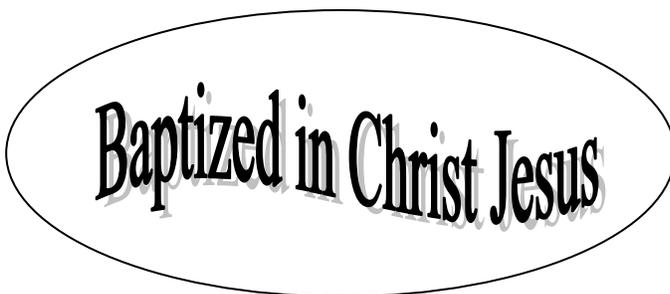
2. How can the poor help us to discover our GIFTS and strengths?

3. Compose a short vocation prayer that reflects your discussion.

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PLANNING KIT

YOUNG ADULT

YEAR B

The Solemnity of All Saints

- Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14
- Psalm 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
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- Lesson Plans
- Activities

YOUNG ADULT LESSON PLANS

Baptized in Christ Jesus

LESSON ONE *What do I value?*

Objective: To help young adults look at their beliefs and values as part of discernment for life choices.

Preparation: Provide index cards, a pen or pencil for each participant. Arrange chairs around a prayer table. Include candle, Bible, and basket for cards.

Process: Begin with a simple welcome and introductions. Offer a prayer and read aloud Romans 6: 3-9. Invite people to reflect on what values are needed as a follower of Jesus described in this reading. Talk about these values. Distribute 5 index cards per person. Ask participants to reflect on their own values and beliefs. Write one value or belief on each card. Number these from 1-5 with 1 being the most important value or belief. Arrange cards with "5" on top to "1" on the bottom. Lead a reflective process using the suggested questions. With each card help participants focus on the value/belief by asking these or similar questions: *What does this value/belief mean to you? Who has helped you develop this value/belief? When has this value/belief been called forth? How is it apparent to others that you have this value/belief? What would life be like if you did not believe in this value? Let go of this value. You do not believe in this. Let go of this and place that card on the bottom of your pile.* Ask similar questions with each card. Ask participants to sit with the emptiness. Then invite them to take each one back. In dyads or triads share beliefs and discuss. In the large group have them talk about the exercise and what they discovered about themselves. Distribute another index card and ask participants to write a belief, value, or quality they wish to strengthen. Sign it. Discuss these with group. Collect the cards in a basket. Each participant chooses a card and prays for that person regularly. End the session with a creed or vocation prayer and possibly a song.

LESSON TWO *Discovering God at work in the Digital World*

Objective: To create awareness of how our spiritual lives can be enhanced through the digital world of music, internet and community. How can the digital world facilitate the discovery of how you will live out your baptismal call?

Preparation: Duplicate **Activity 1** and *Sites to Surf* page. Ask participants to bring their iPods, or a current popular song they enjoy, favorite websites or a book that has cultivated their spiritual lives. Also download a *Pray as You Go* (www.pray-as-you-go.org) meditation.

Process: Begin the session with the podcast as the opening prayer. Ask participants to share about podcasts, websites, and songs that have helped them in their faith and prayer life. If possible get an internet connection on a laptop, display some of the current websites that can help us to develop a deeper prayer life or grow in our Catholic faith formation with particular emphasis on those that would help in their vocation discernment. Distribute **Activity 1**. Review the suggested activities and invite participants to choose one of them or create something similar. Conclude the session with a You Tube prayer video that is chosen in advance. Consider inviting a priest, brother or sister to come and talk with the group about how they live out their baptismal call.

ACTIVITY 1

Discovering God in the Digital World

Exploring Websites and Music

Highlight/star the ones from the “*Sites to Surf*” that are mentioned by participants. Add addresses of those not on the list. Write down name of musicians and song titles that are helpful.

You Tube Videos

- Do a search for videos that highlight 3 different vocations: priest, lay ecclesial minister, woman religious, brother, deacon. What did you hear?

- Review one or two of *CNN Heroes*, (few minutes clip) and discuss how that person felt called to a particular form of service. What keeps them motivated? What personal gift or charisma does s/he have in order to make a difference?

- Which person won *Hero of the Year* award for December 2013?

Interview for a newscast

Create an interview for *60 minutes* on the *rich young man* 5 years after his encounter with Jesus or create an interview with the *woman at the well* 5 years after her encounter with Jesus.

Facebook /Blog

Find a *Facebook* page or blog for a woman religious, priest, deacon, brother, lay ecclesial minister and for Catholic singles and married couples. What did you learn?

Sites to Surf

America (Jesuit publication)	www.americamagazine.org
St. Anthony (American Catholic)	www.americancatholic.org
Busted Halo (Paulist)	www.bustedhalo.com
Catechism of the Catholic Church	www.scborromeo.org/ccm.htm
Catholic Information Center	www.catholic.net
Catholics on Call	www.catholicsoncall.org
Catholic Resources (Directories, etc.)	www.catholic-church.org/cid
Centering Prayer	www.centeringprayer.com
Daily Reflections & Prayer	onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/daily.html
Giving Voice (Reflections by younger women religious)	www.giving-voice.org
Good Ground Press	www.goodgroundpress.com
Latino Hispanic Catholics (Vocation Guide and OYE)	www.vocacioncatolica.com www.oyemagazine.org
Liturgical Readings (any year plus great links)	www.easterbrooks.com/personal/calendar
Liturgy of the Hours	www.universalis.com
Mary Page, The	campus.udayton.edu/mary/
Mass Times Everywhere	www.masstimes.org/dotNet/Default.aspx
My Catholic Voice	www.mycatholicvoice.com
National Conference for Diocesan Vocation Directors	www.ncdvd.org
National Religious Vocation Conference	www.nrvn.net
Pray as you go (daily prayer for your mp3 player)	www.pray-as-you-go.org
Preaching www.opreach.org	
Prepare the Word	www.PrepareTheWord.com
Priests of the Sacred Heart	www.scjvocation.org
Prepare for Sunday Mass	www.liturgy.slu.edu
Religious Orders and Articles	www.visionguide.info
Sacred Space	www.jesuit.ie/prayer
SerraUSA	www.serra.us
U.S. Catholic Publication	www.uscatholic.org
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops	www.usccb.org
Vocation Match (TrueQuest)	www.vocationmatch.com
Vocations and Prayer (Rogationist publication)	www.vocationsandprayer.org
Word Net www.wordnet.tv	
World Library Publications	www.wlp.com



NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

November 1-7, 2015

FAMILY TAKE-HOME PAGE

Dear Parent/s,

This is *National Vocation Awareness Week*. This *family page* has suggestions for how you may celebrate this week at home. These activities can be done at anytime during the year. We hope you will find these suggestions helpful as you create an environment that fosters family life, rooted in your Catholic Christian faith and joins with the Church in praying for vocations. *God bless you and your family.*

Prayer Service

Preparations: bowl of water, candle(s), Bible

Leader: We are gathered to celebrate God's call to us in baptism. To remind us that we are loved by God we bless ourselves with water.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
(Everyone dips into the bowl of water and makes the sign of the cross.)

Reading: Luke 3:21–22

Prayers of Thanksgiving: *Leader invites people to offer prayers of thanksgiving.*

Prayer: *Pray the vocation prayer or invite group to pray the Our Father and/or a spontaneous prayer.*

Candle lighting: *Pass the one candle around the group, or provide a candle for each person.*

Leader: Through our baptism we are the beloved of God and are called to let our light shine. As a sign of our willingness to share our light, let us light our candle/s and sing (or choose another appropriate song):

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Pray

- Set aside time each week/month to pray together as a family. Continue to share about God's call. Take turns leading the session.
- Create a family vocation prayer and pray it regularly.
- Look up the baptism date of each family member. Celebrate it as a family. Light a candle (if you have the candle from the actual baptism, light that one.) Share pictures/video and memories of the baptism. Talk about what baptism means. Pray the Apostles' Creed or rosary together. Parents may want to give a special gift of religious significance on the anniversary of a child's baptism.

Resolutions / Goals

Many people set goals/resolutions for a new year. As a family talk about your hopes for the new year as you seek to follow Jesus. Create a family quilt/chain with your ideas.

You will need: 1) squares/colored paper (3"x 3"/1" x 8", cloth/paper, different colors);

2) yarn, needle and thread, paper clips, glue/tape; 3) crayons, markers, or fabric pens.

Process: a) distribute the squares/paper; b) write down a hope on the square/paper and decorate (some may be blank or decorated with no words); c) join together. Display and act on your hopes. Revisit them regularly.

Visits

- Invite a parish priest, sister, brother, or deacon to your home for a meal, prayer, conversation. Ask them to share their vocation story.
- Visit a seminary, motherhouse, or monastery. Meet and talk with someone who has chosen religious life or priesthood as his/her vocation. Do a virtual visit on the web.
- Go to your local vocation office and get information about religious vocations and events that may be going on in the diocese. Try to attend at least one event this year.
- Check with local seminary or motherhouse to see what is available for your children to participate in. They may sponsor a youth summer camp, etc.

Play

- Watch TV programs, DVDs and talk about where God was/wasn't. You may wish to add "If I were in this . . . I would. . ."
- Create a game, word search or scramble with these words. Add other words. First talk about what they mean.

Baptism	Brother	Deacon	Disciple	Marriage	Call
Mission	Priest	Single Life	Sister	Vocation	Vows

- Play charades or Pictionary with Bible stories. e.g. The baptism of Jesus, Jesus walks on water, Mary is asked to be the Mother of God (the Annunciation), Jesus heals a blind man, The Last Supper, Judas betrays Jesus, The woman at the well, The crucifixion, etc.

NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

November 1-7, 2015



LITURGY PLANNING GUIDE

Year A

Introductory Rites

Processional Hymn

- ___ *The Church's One Foundation*, S. Wesley, OCP
 - ___ *Wake, O Wake, and Sleep No Longer*, P. Nicolai, OCP
 - ___ *Sons of Thankfulness & Praise*, SALZBURG, Text:
Christopher Wordsworth, Music: Jakob Hintz, GIA, OCP
WLP
-

Penitential Rite

- Kyrie, Eleison*, Owen Alstott, Heritage Mass, OCP
- Kyrie*, Plainsong, Mass XVI, Mode III, OCP
- Penitential Act*, Marty Haugen, GIA

Gloria

Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

Psalms Response

- ___ Ps. 24 *Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face*,
Owen Alstott, OCP
 - ___ Ps. 24: *Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory*, by John
Schiavone, OCP
-

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-3

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12a

Homily

See *Homily Notes*

General Intercessions

See *General Intercessions*

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

- ___ *We Are Many Parts*, Marty Haugen, OCP
- ___ *The Servant Song*, Richard Gillard, Scripture in Song, GIA, WLP
- ___ *Jesus, Come to Us*, David Haas, OCP

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

Memorial Acclamation

Great Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Lamb of God

Communion Processional

- ___ *Jesus, Bread of Life*, James Marchionda, WLP
- ___ *Lord Who at Thy First Eucharist*, W.H. Monk, OCP
- ___ *In the Breaking of the Bread* (English & Spanish), Bob Hurd, OCP

Concluding Rites

Prayer after Communion

Blessing and Dismissal

Recessional Hymn

- ___ *Go, Now in Peace*, Kevin Keil, WLP
- ___ *For the Beauty of the Earth*, Conrad Kocher, OCP
- ___ *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones*, A. Riley, OCP



Works of Charity and Justice

Pope Francis continually reminds us to be a Church “of” and “for” the poor. Plan to help someone less fortunate than you this month. Read your parish bulletin for ways to get involved like:

Attend your parish Peace and Justice Commission meeting

Join a St. Vincent De Paul Society

Help at a local soup kitchen

Volunteer at a local food pantry

Donate non-perishable food items to a food bank

Write, call email your local state or federal representative to voice your view on passing legislation informed by Catholic Social Teaching.

Volunteer to collect clothes or work at parish thrift shop

Check out other civic organizations that help the poor, hungry or homeless. (e.g. Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels, Good Will, Catholic Charities, etc.)



NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

November 1-7, 2015

General Intercessions

Presider: We are God's beloved. Trusting in the love of God we place our needs in his hands.

Response: **Loving God, bless your people.**

- You call us to be servants of justice and a church "of" and "for" the poor. Guide all leaders to work together to establish a just world.
We pray:
- You anointed Jesus to be a light to the nations.
Empower us to spread the light of Jesus in our times.
We pray:
- You made a covenant with your people.
Strengthen all who are in need of your love-especially, the sick, the imprisoned, and the marginalized. We pray:
- You called Jesus your Beloved Son at his baptism.
Bless all who are baptized in Christ Jesus that they may be faithful to their vocations. We pray:
- You are with your servants as they proclaim the good news.
Inspire men and women to respond generously to your call to proclaim the gospel through a church vocation. We pray:
- You have grasped your loved ones by the hand.
Hold all who have died in your loving hands, (especially...)
We pray:

Presider: Loving God,
Receive these prayers and continue to show your favor to us.
We offer our prayers through Jesus in the power of the Spirit. Amen.

Setting

Begin with dim lighting and the paschal candle (or a large candle) centrally placed. Have 7 candles available for the *Prayer for the Gifts of the Spirit*.

Musical Selections

Envía Tu Espíritu, Bob Hurd, OCP
Whom Shall I Send, DUNDEDIN LM, Fred Pratt Green, Hope Publishing, Vernon Griffiths, Faber Music, WLP
Bring Forth the Kingdom, Marty Haugen, GIA
Wade in the Water, Traditional, OCP
Jesus, Come to Us, David Haas, OCP
Go Make of All Disciples, ELLACOMBE, Leon Adkins, Abingdon Press, GIA, WLP

Reflection

Focus on what it means to be “baptized in Christ Jesus.”
How does one die and rise with Christ?
How does the Spirit help us live out our baptism?

Prayer for the Gifts of the Spirit

Light a candle with each prayer. You may wish to ask seven people to carry up/or light each candle and/or say the accompanying prayer.

Closing Prayer

You may want to provide the *Vocation Prayer* (see packet) for everyone or have leader pray the prayer or something similar.

The USA Council of Serra International Vocations Committee is able to prepare and provide this planning kit to dioceses, parishes, schools, religious congregations, and Serra clubs at no cost through a generous grant from the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. Should you want to insure our ability to continue this program at no cost please consider a gift to the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. For more information please contact the USA Council of Serra International 1-888-777-6681 or email. ©2015 USA Council of Serra International



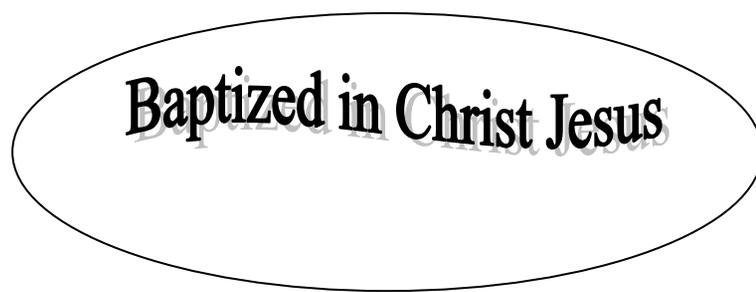
NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

November 1-7, 2015

Prayer Service

The Solemnity of All Saints

YEAR B



Baptized in Christ Jesus

Call to Prayer

Leader: Baptized in Christ Jesus
All: We are called to be a covenant of the people.

Leader: God's Chosen Ones, holy and beloved,
All: We are servants of justice and peace.

Leader: Come, let us praise God!
All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Opening Song

Opening Prayer: *Thanksgiving for the Light*

O Radiant God, during this Year of Faith, we give you thanks and praise, for "the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." (Is. 9) Through all ages you guide your people by your light on the path that leads to life. Baptized in the Spirit with Jesus we become a light to the nations. All glory and honor be yours now and forever. Amen.

Reading Romans 6: 3-9

Psalm Response Psalm 23: 1-6 (sung or spoken)

Alleluia (Sung)

Gospel Luke 3:15, 21-22

Reflection

Prayer for Gifts of the Spirit (see next page.)

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing of Peace

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Concluding Song

Prayer for Gifts of the Spirit (with candle lighting)

Leader: Come, Spirit of Wisdom, dwell in us.
Reveal to us the inner journey of love.
All: Spirit of Wisdom, come guide us.

Leader: Come, Spirit of Understanding, be with us as
we seek to live in peace with patience.
All: Spirit of Understanding, come open us.

Leader: Come, Spirit of Counsel, help all who are making important
decisions. Guide them in their discernment.
All: Spirit of Counsel, come teach us your ways.

Leader: Come, Spirit of Courage, be our strength as we face
the challenges of life where injustice prevails.
All: Spirit of Courage, come strengthen us.

Leader: Come, Spirit of Knowledge, be light for us.
Open our minds that we might see your vision.
All: Spirit of Knowledge, come shine in us.

Leader: Come, Spirit of Wonder, be the joy of our soul.
Encircle us with your beauty and give us thankful hearts.
All: Spirit of Wonder, come delight us with joy.

Leader: Come, Spirit of Reverence, deepen our relationship with
you. May we never be separated from your love and
goodness.
All: Come, Spirit of Reverence, come keep us close.





Prayer for Vocations

Loving God, author of grace and mercy,
You call us through our baptism in the Spirit
to continue the mission of your beloved Son, Jesus.

Open us to listen attentively for your invitation.
Empower us to respond to your call.

Inspire women and men
to follow the path of service.
Together may we build up the Church to be a
vibrant sign of your presence in our world.

We offer this prayer
in the name of your Son, Jesus,
through the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

www.serraus.org



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NATIONAL VOCATION AWARE AWARENESS WEEK

November 1-7, 2015

Bulletin Announcements

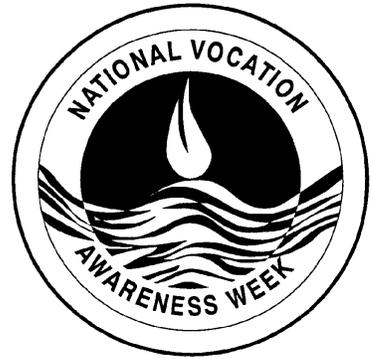
Weekend of October 25, 2015

Our Sunday season in Ordinary Time takes a break next week as we reach the month of November. Next Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints. As we celebrate and honor all known and unknown holy men and women seeking their intercession. We recall all the holy men and women whose commitment to the faith in the Lord Jesus is one we should aspire to. It is fitting that this day marks the beginning of *National Vocation Awareness Week*. Consider participating in our special celebration next week. (*Include any information pertinent to your observance of NVAW.*)

Weekend of November 1, 2015

On this Solemnity of All Saints we begin *National Vocation Awareness Week*. Let us remember those who have given their lives in service to the Church by renewing our own baptismal commitment to serve the Lord. Please consider your call to serve God in your particular vocation. Hopefully some of you will hear a call to priesthood, diaconate or religious life and will be open to that possibility. If you would like assistance, please contact (*supply information for contacting the local vocation director or a pastoral staff person*). We will have a special observance of *National Vocation Awareness Week* (*include information of place and time*).

Baptized in Christ Jesus





NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

Baptized in the Spirit

Come join us!

The USA Council of Serra International Vocations Committee is able to prepare and provide this planning kit to dioceses, parishes, schools, religious congregations, and Serra clubs at no cost through a generous grant from the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. Should you want to insure our ability to continue this program at no cost please consider a gift to the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. For more information please contact the USA Council of Serra International 1-888-777-6681 or email. ©2015 USA Council of Serra International

Mark your Calendars!

World & National Annual Events	2015 Year B	2016 Year C	2017 Year A
National Vocation Awareness Week	November 1-7	November 6-12	November 5-11
World Day for Consecrated Life*	February 8	February 7	February 5
World Day of Prayer for Vocations**	April 26	April 17	May 7

*The US Bishops observe WDCL on February 2 when that date falls on a Sunday; if not it is observed on the Sunday after February 2.

**The Holy Father issues a pastoral letter each year for the celebration of World Day of Prayer for Vocations. This was unavailable at press time. It may be available at the Vatican Website closer to the date of the event (<http://www.vatican.va>).



USA Council of Serra International
Our mission is to foster and affirm vocations to the
priesthood and vowed religious life.

Pray! Invite! Encourage! Affirm! Vocations

USA Council of Serra International
333 W Wacker Dr Suite 500 · Chicago IL 60606
Telephone (312) 201-6549 · Fax (312) 201-6548
Toll-free voice: 1-888-777-6681 · Toll-free fax: 1-888-777-6803
Email: serraus@serraus.org ~ www.serraus.org

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