

The Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time on the heels of the Feast of All Saints and All Souls marks a moment when Jesus illustrates the limits of our imagination. Jesus proclaims our relationship with God and its possibilities goes beyond our earthly imagination. As children of God are relationship is with God of the living and for Him all are alive. With this knowledge, we recommit ourselves to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Initiated through our baptism we too are commissioned to proclaim Good News with our lives.

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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

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## NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

November 6-12, 2016

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### YEAR C

#### Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14
  - Psalm 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15
  - 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5
  - Luke 20:27-38
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## NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

November 6-11, 2016

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### PLANNING KIT

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### PRIMARY (1-3)

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#### YEAR C

#### Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

- **2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14**
- **Psalm 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15**
- **2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5**
- **Luke 20:27-38**

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## PRIMARY LESSON PLANS

### *Baptized in the Spirit*

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#### **LESSON ONE** *Baptism of the Lord*

**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 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*

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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 6-11, 2016

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### PLANNING KIT

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### INTERMEDIATE (4-6)

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#### YEAR C

#### Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

- **2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14**
- **Psalm 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15**
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## INTERMEDIATE LESSON PLANS

### *Baptized in the Spirit*

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#### **LESSON ONE** *Called to Serve*

**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 scene of Jesus' baptism. Read: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22. "If you were Jesus how might you feel? What might you do after this happened?" Talk about how Jesus began his "public ministry (service)" after his baptism by going out to teach, preach, and heal. By 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*

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#### **Called by Name**

Each person is special and called by God. The prophet Isaiah tells us how special we are to God. God says to us: *"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. Fear not, for I am with you."* (Isaiah 43:1, 5)

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***

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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 6-11, 2016

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### PLANNING KIT

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### JUNIOR HIGH (7-8)

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#### YEAR C

#### Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

- **2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14**
- **Psalm 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15**
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## JUNIOR HIGH LESSON PLANS

### *Baptized in the Spirit*

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#### **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 the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Invite students to be centered and listen to the two readings from the feast: Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7 and Luke 3:15–16, 21–22. Discuss what they heard. How are the readings connected? Who is the ‘servant’ that Isaiah mentions? [Jesus] What is this servant called to do? In the gospel story how does Jesus know that he is blessed? [While Jesus was praying, he saw the Holy Spirit and heard the voice of God.] 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*

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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.

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## ACTIVITY 2

### *What is God calling you to be and do?*

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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

November 6-11, 2016

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### PLANNING KIT

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### HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)

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#### YEAR C

#### Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

- **2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14**
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# HIGH SCHOOL LESSON PLANS

## *Baptized in the Spirit*

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### **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 in the Spirit. 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 Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7, 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 Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7. *Pause.* Read aloud: "Was there a word that stood out for you?" *Pause.* Continue aloud: "Isaiah said: 'You are my chosen one; with whom I am pleased; I have called you; I have grasped you by the hand.' *Pause.* "Each of us is called by God at baptism and gifted with the Spirit. We are called into 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.) Show DVD *You Could God's Call a Family Affair* (available at [www.serraus.org](http://www.serraus.org)), provide stories from *Vision Magazine* (free hard copies 800-942-2811/[VocationGuide.org](http://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.

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

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

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### PLANNING KIT

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### YOUNG ADULT

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#### YEAR C

#### Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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## YOUNG ADULT LESSON PLANS

### *Baptized in the Spirit*

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#### **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 Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7. Invite people to reflect on what values are needed in God's servant 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](http://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 2012?

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



# NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

November 6-11, 2016

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## 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.

## Activity

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 6-11, 2016



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## LITURGY PLANNING GUIDE

Year C

### Introductory Rites

*Processional Hymn*

- \_\_\_ *When John Baptized by Jordan's River*, RENDEZ A DIEU, Timothy Dudley-Smith, Hope Publishing, WLP
  - \_\_\_ *Baptized in Water*, Gaelic Melody, Hope Publishing, WLP, GIA
  - \_\_\_ *On Jordan's Bank, C. Coffin*, OCP
  - \_\_\_ *Sons of Thankfulness & Praise*, SALZBURG, Text: Christopher Wordsworth, Music: Jakob Hintz, GIA, OCP WLP
- 

*Penitential Rite*

A sprinkling rite is suggested.

*Sprinkling Rite*

- \_\_\_ *Who Calls You By Name*, David Haas, GIA, WLP
  - \_\_\_ *Agua De Vida/ Water of Life*, Jaime Cortez, OCP
  - \_\_\_ *Send Us Flowing Water, Lord*, Joe Mattingly, WLP
- 

*Gloria*

*Opening Prayer*

### Liturgy of the Word

*First Reading*

2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14

*Psalm Response*

Psalm 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15

*Second Reading*

2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5

*Gospel Acclamation*

Revelations 1:5a, 6b

*Gospel*

Luke 20:27-38

*Homily*

See *Homily Notes*

*General Intercessions*

See *General Intercessions*

**Liturgy of the Eucharist**

*Preparation of the Gifts*

\_\_\_ *O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God*, ST COLUMBA, GIA, WLP

\_\_\_ *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

\_\_\_ *We Are Many Parts*, Marty Haugen, GIA

\_\_\_ *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 Life of the World* (English & Spanish), David Haas, GIA

\_\_\_ *Whom Shall I Send?* DUNDEDIN LM, Fred Pratt Green, Hope Publishing & Faber Music, WLP

\_\_\_ *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*, ABBOTS LEIGH, Jeffrey Rowthron, Hope Publ., GIA, OCP, WLP

\_\_\_\_\_





# NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

November 6-11, 2016

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## Homily Notes

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year C

Fr. David, a newly ordained priest, visits the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students of the parish school. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Jesus' response to the Sadducees shows that sometimes we miss the most important things about what God has planned for us because life gets in the way we get stuck in the details of being human. Jesus wants us to open our minds and hearts to the possibilities that God has in store for us. Our faith tells us that when we die our life is changed, not ended. This is good news because we know that we will continue to share a relationship with God even after our death.

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 Year of Mercy, what is God doing in 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 through the people we are called to serve.

Open our minds and hearts  
**Open our minds and hearts**



# NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

November 6-11, 2016

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## 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.  
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 the Spirit of 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 the Spirit.”  
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.

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# NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

November 6-11. 2016

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## Prayer Service

**Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**YEAR C**



**We are all God's Children**

## Call to Prayer

Leader: Baptized in the Spirit  
**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 Mercy, 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** Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

**Psalm Response** Psalm 27 (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, during this Year of 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](http://www.serraus.org)



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# NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

November 6-11, 2016

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## Bulletin Announcements

### Weekend of October 30, 2016

As we ready ourselves to celebrate and honor all known and unknown holy men and women seeking their intercession this coming week. 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, as we prepare to celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week, we remember those gone before us and learn from their example. Consider participating in our special celebration next week. *(Include any information pertinent to your observance of NVAW.)*

### Weekend of November 6, 2016

On this Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time we begin National Vocation Awareness Week. Let us celebrate all 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).

**Called to serve God**





# NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

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**Baptized in the Spirit**

***Come join us!***

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# Mark your Calendars!

<b>World &amp; National Annual Events</b>	<b>2017 Year A</b>	<b>2018 Year B</b>	<b>2019 Year C</b>
National Vocation Awareness Week	November 5-11	November 4-10	November 3-9
World Day for Consecrated Life*	February 5	February 4	February 3
World Day of Prayer for Vocations**	May 7	April 22	May 12

\*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

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