

TO MAKE GOD KNOWN, LOVED, AND SERVED

Grades 6 - 8



A VOCATIONS CURRICULUM

To Make God Known, Loved, and Served

A Vocations Curriculum

Grades 6-8



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To Make God Known, Loved, and Served

Overall Learning Goals

By eighth grade students will be able to:

1. Define the term “vocation” as the dream or the mission that God calls us to in our lives so that we can know, love, and serve God, and also make God known, loved, and served.
2. Recognize and articulate that they themselves have vocations from God. (self-knowledge)
3. Name their God-given gifts, skills, talents and passions. (self-knowledge)
4. Explain and give examples of how God speaks with and calls His people. (God-knowledge)
5. Name the four primary vocations in the Church – committed single life, married life, religious life, and priesthood – and describe how each knows, loves, and serves God, and makes God known, loved, and served. (vocations-knowledge or knowledge of what we are discerning)
6. Draw upon prayer and reflection to seek God’s will in dreaming about their futures and making age-appropriate decisions. (discerning-knowledge or knowledge of how to make decisions with God)

Saintly Models



Priesthood

Fr. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C.



Religious Life

St. André Bessette



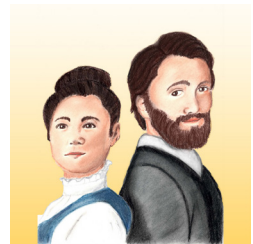
Religious Life

St. Teresa of Calcutta



Committed Single Life

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati



Married Life

Saints Louis and Zélie Martin

To Make God Known, Loved, and Served

Lesson Objectives

Kindergarten:

Saintly Model:
Fr. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C.

Lesson One: How Priests Serve God

Students will be able to identify how the vocation of priesthood serves God through the witness of Fr. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C. (5)

Lesson Two: Talking with God in Prayer

Students will be able to describe how Jesus talked with God in prayer and how all people can talk with God in prayer. (4 & 6)

Lesson Three: Mary's Important Words

Students will be able to describe Mary's last lesson: "Do whatever Jesus tells you." (1)

First Grade:

Saintly Model:
St. André Bessette

Lesson One: God Created the World

Students will be able to explain that God made everything in the world and that it is good. (2)

Lesson Two: God Loves Us

Students will be able to explain that God gave us His Son to show us that He loves us. (2)

Lesson Three: St. André - God's Servant

Students will be able to identify how St. André Bessette showed others that God loves them through his vocation as a religious brother. (5)

Second Grade:

Saintly Model:
St. Teresa of Calcutta

Lesson One: Showing Love through Vocations

Students will be able to identify ways that religious men and women show love for others through their vocation of religious life. (5)

Lesson Two: The Greatest Commandments

Students will be able to explain God's call to love through Jesus' teaching of the Two Greatest Commandments. (2 & 3)

Lesson Three: Called to Love

Students will be able to identify ways that they can follow God's vocation to love in their own lives. (2 & 3)

To Make God Known, Loved, and Served

Lesson Objectives Continued

Third Grade:

Saintly Model:
Saints Louis & Zélie Martin

Lesson One: *How Married Couples Serve God*

Students will be able to identify how married couples love and serve God. (5)

Lesson Two: *How God Calls Us*

Students will be able to explain how God may call us through our dreams. (4)

Lesson Three: *Sharing Your Dreams with God*

Students will be able to share their dreams with God. (6)

Fourth Grade:

Saintly Model:
Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

Lesson One: *Serving God in the Committed Single Life*

Students will be able to identify how the vocation of the committed single life serves God. (5)

Lesson Two: *God Strengthens Us to be Disciples*

Students will be able to identify how God strengthens His people to be His disciples. (4)

Lesson Three: *God Gives Us Gifts and Talents*

Students will be able to identify their own God-given gifts and talents as well as those of others, and how they can use them to serve others. (3)

Fifth Grade:

Saintly Models:
Fr. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C.
St. André Bessette
St. Teresa of Calcutta
Saints Louis & Zélie Martin
Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

Lesson One: *Called to be Fishers of Men*

Students will be able to define the term “vocation” through reading the call of the first disciples. (1 & 4)

Lesson Two: *Responding to God’s Call*

Students will be able to identify that in addition to a vocation being a call from God, it involves a response from us. (1 & 4)

Lesson Three: *Called to be Holy and Follow Jesus*

Students will be able to identify that everyone has a vocation through the Universal Call to Holiness. (2)

To Make God Known, Loved, and Served

Lesson Objectives Continued

Fifth Grade:

Saintly Models:

Fr. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C.

St. André Bessette

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Saints Louis & Zélie Martin

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

Lesson Four: Know, Love, and Serve God

Students will be able to identify the four primary vocations in the Church: married life, committed single life, religious life, and priesthood. (5)

Lesson Five: Vocation of Priesthood

Students will be able to explain how someone called to the vocation of priesthood knows, loves, serves God and makes God known through the story of Fr. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C. (5)

Lesson Six: Living the Vocation of Priesthood

Students will be able to explain how a vocation to the priesthood provides opportunities to know, love and serve God, and make God known, loved and served. (5)

Lesson Seven: Vocation of Marriage

Students will be able to explain how someone called to the vocation of marriage knows, loves, and serves God, and makes God known, loved, and served through the story of Saints Louis and Zélie Martin. (5)

Lesson Eight: Living the Vocation of Marriage

Students will be able to explain how a vocation to the married life provides opportunities to know, love, and serve God, and make God known, loved, and served. (5)

Lesson Nine & Ten: Vocation of Religious Life

Students will be able to explain how the vocation to religious life knows, loves and serves God, and makes God known, loved and served through the stories of St. André Bessette and St. Teresa of Calcutta. (5)

Lesson Eleven: Living the Vocation of Religious Life

Students will be able to explain how a vocation to religious life provides opportunities to know, love, and serve God, and make God known, loved, and served. (5)

Lesson Twelve: Vocation of the Committed Single Life

Students will be able to explain how someone called to the vocation of the committed single life knows, loves, and serves God, and makes God known, loved, and served through the story of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. (5)

Lesson Thirteen: Living the Committed Single Life

Students will be able to explain how a vocation to the committed single life provides opportunities to know, love, and serve God, and make God known, loved, and served. (5)

To Make God Known, Loved, and Served

Lesson Objectives Continued

Fifth Grade:

Saintly Models:

Fr. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C.

St. André Bessette

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Saints Louis & Zélie Martin

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

Lesson Fourteen: *One Body in Christ*

Students will be able to compare how vocations work together the same way the parts of the body work together. (5)

Lesson Fifteen: *The Saint Who is Just Me*

Students will be able to identify the importance of each unique person within the Body of Christ. (1 & 5)

Lesson Sixteen: *This Little Light of Mine*

Students will be able to identify ways in which they currently know, love, and serve God, and make God known, loved, and served. (2, 3)

Lesson Seventeen: *Let It Shine*

Students will be able to identify ways in which they can grow to know, love, and serve God and make God known, loved, and served more. (3 & 6)

Lesson Eighteen: *Prayer Letter to Mary*

Students will be able to identify Mary as the Mother of Vocations. (6)

Sixth Grade:

Saintly Models:

Fr. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C.

St. André Bessette

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Saints Louis & Zélie Martin

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

Lesson One & Two: *Communion of Saints-Treasure in Heaven*

Students will be able to describe how each vocation allows a person to know God and make God known. (5)

Lesson Three: *Seeing with God's Eyes*

Students will be able to learn from the parable of the Good Samaritan that we often know God's call by seeing with God's eyes. (4)

Lesson Four: *God's Invitation through Scripture*

Students will be able to pray Scripture through the Ignation Visualization Technique and Lectio Divina to come to know God more fully. (6)

Lesson Five: *Seek and Recognize God*

Students will be able to present a method to aid them in making decisions with God on a daily basis. (6)

To Make God Known, Loved, and Served

Lesson Objectives Continued

Seventh Grade:

Saintly Models:

Fr. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C.

St. André Bessette

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Saints Louis & Zélie Martin

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

Lesson One: *Make Our Joy Complete*

Students will be able to describe how each vocation comes to love God, to make God loved, and to experience joy. (5)

Lesson Two: *The Greatest Gift*

Students will be able to relate the definition of love as the gift of self to real-life examples. (1)

Lesson Three: *Tree of Love*

Students will be able to explain how we strive to love, through our vocations, because God first loved us. (1)

Lesson Four: *Serve Him by Serving Others*

Students will be able to articulate how both strengths and weaknesses can be used to love God. (3)

Lesson Five: *Love Without Counting the Cost*

Students will be able to analyze the costs and benefits of sacrifice and relate it to the idea that, in the end, we are called to “love without counting the cost.” (6)

Eighth Grade:

Saintly Models:

Fr. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C.

St. André Bessette

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Saints Louis & Zélie Martin

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

Lesson One: *Shine through Us*

Students will be able to define “vocation” and give several examples of how Jesus’ life was a life of service. (1 & 5)

Lesson Two & Three: *Christ has No Body but Yours*

Students will be able to list ways in which each of the four vocations can serve God and each other in unique ways. (5)

Lesson Four: *Serve Him by Serving Others*

Students will be able to recognize their own gifts, talents, and skills and be able to explain how they could be used to make God known, loved, and served. (3 & 6)

Lesson Five: *Finding our Vocation-Courage to Say Yes*

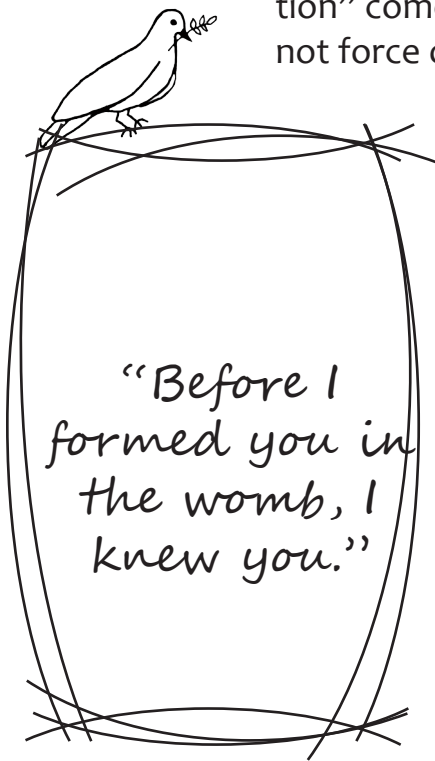
Students will be able to list the ways that we can be open to God’s vocational call to us. (1 & 6)

To Make God Known, Loved, and Served

A Vision of Vocation

God has a unique dream for each and every one of us (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1). It is a dream that begins the moment that God creates us in love and that then unfolds over the rest of our lives. We see this with the Prophet Jeremiah, who God tells, “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you” (1:5).

We call this dream God has for our lives our “vocation.” The word “vocation” comes from the Latin word “vocare” meaning “to call.” God does not force or obligate us to live the dream He has for our lives; rather, God calls us and invites us. It is our free choice to say “yes” to His dream, as we see most fully in Mary. God has chosen her to be the Mother of His Son, and yet God waits until Mary gives her “yes” to this dream God has for her.



Our vocations are never foreign to who we truly are. Having created us, God knows us better than we know ourselves. “You formed me in my inmost being; you knit me in my mother’s womb,” the psalmist sings to God. “I praise you, so wonderfully you made me” (139:13-14).

In calling us to our vocations then, God is actually inviting and freeing us to be who we really and truly are. When we long for freedom, we are not longing so much for choices as much as we are longing to be who we really are. Ultimately, to be free is to be our real selves. In this way, our vocations are not only God’s greatest dream for us, but they are also our deepest dream for ourselves.

The Call to Follow Jesus

Often it can be hard to know who we truly are and what our deepest dreams for our lives is because other people and our world are trying to define us according to whom they want us to be. That is part of the reason why God sent us His Son, Jesus (CCC 1694). As part of His mission of salvation, Jesus came to teach us not just the truth of who God is, but also

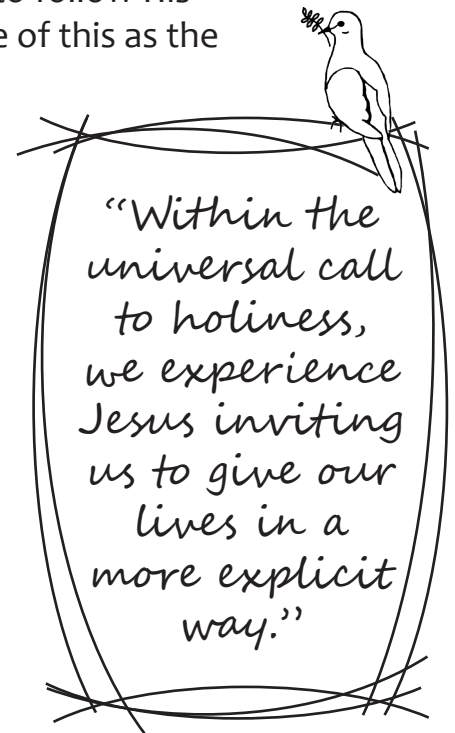
the truth of who we are. “If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples,” Jesus says. “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:35).

Jesus teaches us the truth of who we are precisely by calling us to follow Him. When we follow anyone else, we embark on a path that leads us further away from our true selves. Yet in following and imitating Jesus, we set out on the path that, even in its twists and turns and detours, will lead us ever more to our true selves, because Jesus is “the Way, the Truth, and the Life” (John 14:6). Thus, we can say that we find our vocations precisely “in Christ.”

The “primary” vocation or calling from God to all of us then is to follow His Son, Jesus, and imitate Him. The Second Vatican Council spoke of this as the “universal call to holiness” because to grow in the likeness of Jesus is to become more like God and thus to become more holy (CCC 825). Answering this call to holiness is where the life of faith and discipleship begins for everyone, and it is the primary focus of any faith formation, whether in a Catholic school or in a religious education program.

Within the universal call to holiness, we experience Jesus inviting us to give over our lives in a more explicit way. This is the unique dream that God has for our lives and is the particular (or “secondary”) vocation to which God is inviting us.

Our particular vocations are primarily about who we are, rather than what we do. Much more than inviting us to do something, God is inviting us to be someone.

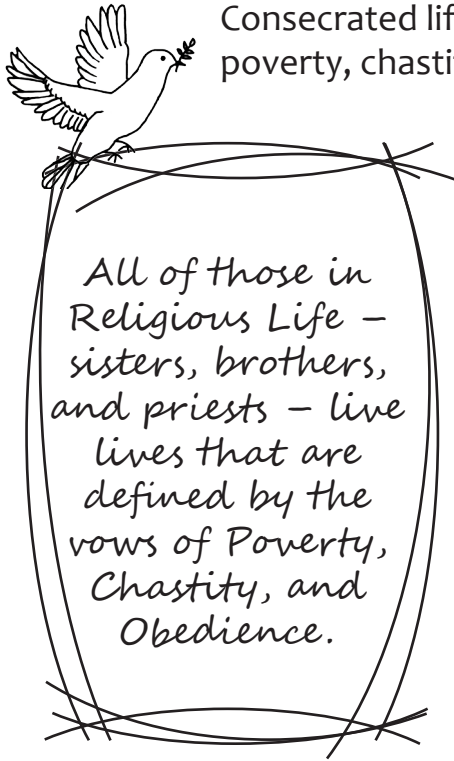


Four Particular Vocations

The Catholic Church teaches that there are four basic answers to the question of who we are going to be with God: Matrimony, Holy Orders, consecrated life, and committed single life. When the Church speaks about vocations, she typically is speaking about one of these four “states of life” that our lives can take. These states of life define who we are in relation to God and to each other.

Matrimony or married life is probably the vocation that most people are most familiar with as it is the most common. A man and a woman enter this vocation through the sacrament of Matrimony, in which they promise to each other and to God to be true to each other “in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.” Their shared love becomes a living witness of the faithful, fruitful, and free love of God for us (CCC 1601-1666).

Holy Orders is the name for the sacrament that deacons, priests and bishops receive that consecrates them for their particular office and ministry in the Church. They are ordained to serve the People of God through administering the sacraments, preaching the word, and shepherding the Church. Through this vocation, “the mission entrusted by Christ to His apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time” (CCC 1536-1600). In this curriculum we focus on priesthood as an example of Holy Orders.



Consecrated life is marked by the profession of the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. These counsels are professed to have a more intimate connection with Jesus as that is how Jesus lived in the Gospels. Jesus was poor; He did not marry and chaste-ly or faithfully lived that commitment; and He always obeyed His Father’s will. The most well-known form of consecrated life is probably religious life, because of the many well-known religious orders that have served the Church over the centuries and continue to serve today. There are both men and women religious. The women are known as religious sisters or nuns, and the men are known as religious brothers or religious priests, depending on whether they are also ordained. Religious life is “distinguished from the other forms of consecrated life by its liturgical character, public profession of the evangelical counsels, fraternal life led in common, and witness given to the union of Christ with the Church” (CCC 914-933). In this curriculum we focus on religious life as an example of the consecrated life.

Committed single life is the vocation of those who consecrate or commit their lives to serving God and others as single people. They do not marry, get ordained, or enter religious life. They find other ways to use their gifts and talents in service of God and others as celibates (CCC 1618-1620).

This vocations curriculum seeks to supplement the basic faith formation provided in Catholic schools and religious education programs by introducing students to these four vocations and equipping them with basic tools to begin listening to God’s call in their lives.

Who We Are Going to Be

All four of these particular vocations are a call to holiness. All of them are a call to come to know, love, and serve God as well as to make God known, loved, and served. The vocations to married life, religious life, priesthood, and committed single life differ in the details of how precisely they come to know, love and serve God as well as make God known, loved, and served. (See the Vocations Grid.)

The principal question of our vocations then is not what we are going to do for God, but who we are going to be with God. Who we are proceeds, forms, and transcends what we do. For example, a married woman or a religious sister might have a number of different jobs or even careers over the course of her life. What she does might change a number of times, but who she is does not change. She remains rooted in her vocation to married life or to religious life.

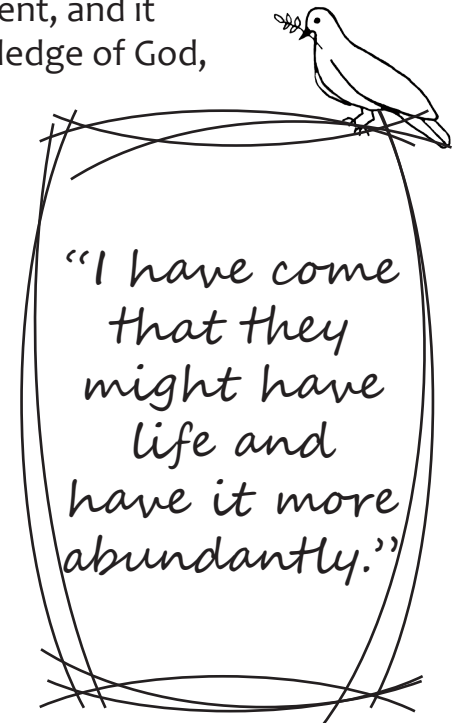
In revealing to us who we are to be, God intends our vocations to be one of the anchors for us through all the other changes, planned or unplanned, of our lives. Next to faith, which is our other major anchor in this world, our vocations are the greatest gift God gives us in this life to guide us home to heaven.

What we do for God is still important and also comes to us as a calling from God. For example, after having an answer a call to Holy Orders, a priest must still turn to God to ask Him what he is called to do as a priest. What he does as a priest, such as serving in a parish, teaching in a university, or going to the foreign missions, also comes as a response to the voice of the Lord in his life. It is part of God's dream for his life.

Finding Our Vocation

The process of discovering our vocations is known as discernment, and it consists of five basic ingredients: 1) knowledge of self, 2) knowledge of God, 3) knowledge of vocations, 4) knowledge of discernment, 5) and faith.

- We must know ourselves well if we are to know who God is calling us to be.
- We must know God well if we are to recognize His voice and His movement in our lives.
- We must know the various vocations well, both how they are similar and how they are different, if we are to begin to identify which one fits us more.
- We must know how to discern, if we are to ask the right questions and listen in the right way for God's response.
- Finally, we must have faith and trust in God, if we are to say "yes" to the Lord's invitation as it will always involve a leap of faith into the unknown.



We know we have found our vocations when the promises of Jesus are fulfilled in our lives. "I have come that they might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete" (John 15:11). This

does not mean we will have lives without challenge or difficulty, but it means throughout it all, we will be blessed with “the peace of God that surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:7).

A Blessing for the World

Our vocations are blessings not just for us, but for the whole world. They are the unique gift God wants to give not just to us, but to our world.

God did not make us because the world needs another Mother Teresa or Saint André Bessette; God made us because the world needs us. Our vocations are the unique mission God has for us – a mission that no one else in this world can fulfill but us. We are to become the saints we were made to be. It is through our vocations faithfully lived that God seeks to continue extending His Kingdom of peace, love, and justice in this world.

The last recorded words of Mary in Scripture come at the wedding at Cana when she tells the waiters, “Do whatever [Jesus] tells you” (John 2:5). No single lesson is more important for us to learn and to share with others than these last words of Mary. Doing whatever Jesus tells us is the surest path for us to find our vocations and thus come to know, love, and serve God as well as make Him known, loved, and served.