DIOCESE OF PROVIDENCE **OFFICE OF VOCATIONS**

485 MOUNT PLEASANT AVENUE PROVIDENCE, RI 02908-3301 WWW.CATHOLICPRIEST.COM
☎401-831-8011 FAX: 401-521-4192

Primary Grades 1-3 Lesson Plan

Theme: *Come Follow Me!*

Purpose:

1. Students will begin to understand the concepts of *discernment* and *God's will.*
2. Students will begin to identify the relationship between discernment and God's will.
3. Students will understand how to apply the process of discernment to their own experiences.

Supplies:

1. Bible
2. Pictures of hidden puzzle with numbers and without numbers.
    a. There are two different forms of numbered puzzles: choose the type which is most appropriate for your students
3. Crayons for each student.

Activity#1: Introduce the Word Discernment

1. Give the children the definition: base your definition on the age of the children
    a. Grade 1: Discernment means making choices. When we make choices we have to think about what is best for us and we have to listen to people who know what is best for us. Who do you think helps us make good choices? (take one or two responses) Good, we listen to grown ups because they know what is best for us. God also knows what is best for us, so we also have to think about what God wants for us.
    b. Grade 2: Discernment means thinking before we make important choices. Important choices are called decisions. When we make decisions we have to do two things. First, we need to listen to what God says is best for us. How do we know what God wants? (take one or two responses) Right, God speaks through people we know, like our parents and teachers. Then we need to think about why it feels like the right choice even if it is not the most fun choice. God knows what is best for you and wants your life to be great. This is what we call God's will. By listening to God's will, we can be the happiest we can be.
    c. Grade 3: Discernment is how we decide what is best for our lives. There are five important steps: 1. Asking (for help to make the right decisions) 2. Praying (to God to guide your decisions) 3. Listening (to God and to other people) 4. Waiting (for help and for God to answer your prayers) and 5. Doing (after the first four steps it is time to make the choice to do God's will)
2. Ask: What choices do you have to make each day? How do you make important decisions like what to eat and what to wear everyday? Do you have to listen to your parents? What happens when you don't listen to your parents?

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Activity #2: The Story of Jonah: An example of God's will

1. Tell the story of Jonah (Jonah 1:1- 3:10).
2. Discuss the story:
    a. Make sure to discuss the way in which Jonah denied the Lord's call and tried to run away, but was rewarded when he followed God's will.
    b. Who is God like in this story? Parent, friend, ruler?
    c. What happened when Jonah tried to run away?
    d. What happened when he accepted God's will (what God wanted him to do)?
    e. How did he talk to God? How can we talk to God?

Activity #3: God's will in a Picture

1. Hand each child a hidden puzzle picture **without** numbers and ask them to write "Me" at the top of the paper
2. Tell the students they can color the picture in any way they wish. (You may want to give them a time limit so they do not take the entire class coloring the first page.)
3. Hand out the pictures **with** numbers and ask them to write "God and Me" on the top of the page.
4. Have the students color the picture according to the numbers. Help them with directions if necessary.
5. When the students have finished with both coloring pages, discuss the results.

Discussion

1. Look at the numbered picture, what did you find in the picture?
2. Did you find anything in your own picture?
3. Which one was easier to make?
4. Look at your pictures and think about how each of these pictures is like your life. The picture that did not have numbers is your life when you do things your way. The picture with the numbers is your life when you do what God wants you to do. The numbers are God's will. They give you directions to follow in life. You can choose to follow or not to follow these directions, but when we listen to God and do what he wants, our lives make much more sense than if we try to do everything on our own.
5. (Hold up two blank puzzles- one with numbers and one without) Take notice of the two pictures before you colored them. The pattern is the exact same. God will take each of you just the way you are and make something of you, the same way the ice cream cone or the duck on the water came from the same picture as the one you tried to color. It is up to you to discern what God is telling you to do and then to follow His directions. How do we discern what God wants? (By listening to our parents, godparents, older brothers and sisters, and teachers and by going to Church every week with our family and praying. **For second and third graders**, make sure to mention receiving the sacraments of reconciliation and communion.)

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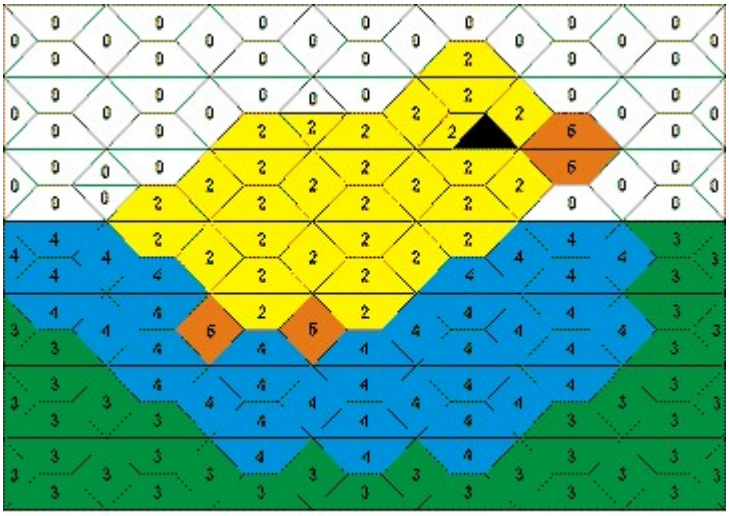

Color all the 0's WHITE, all the 1's BLACK, the 2's YELLOW, the 3's GREEN, the 4's BLUE and all the 5's ORANGE to find what is hidden in this puzzle.

Name:_____

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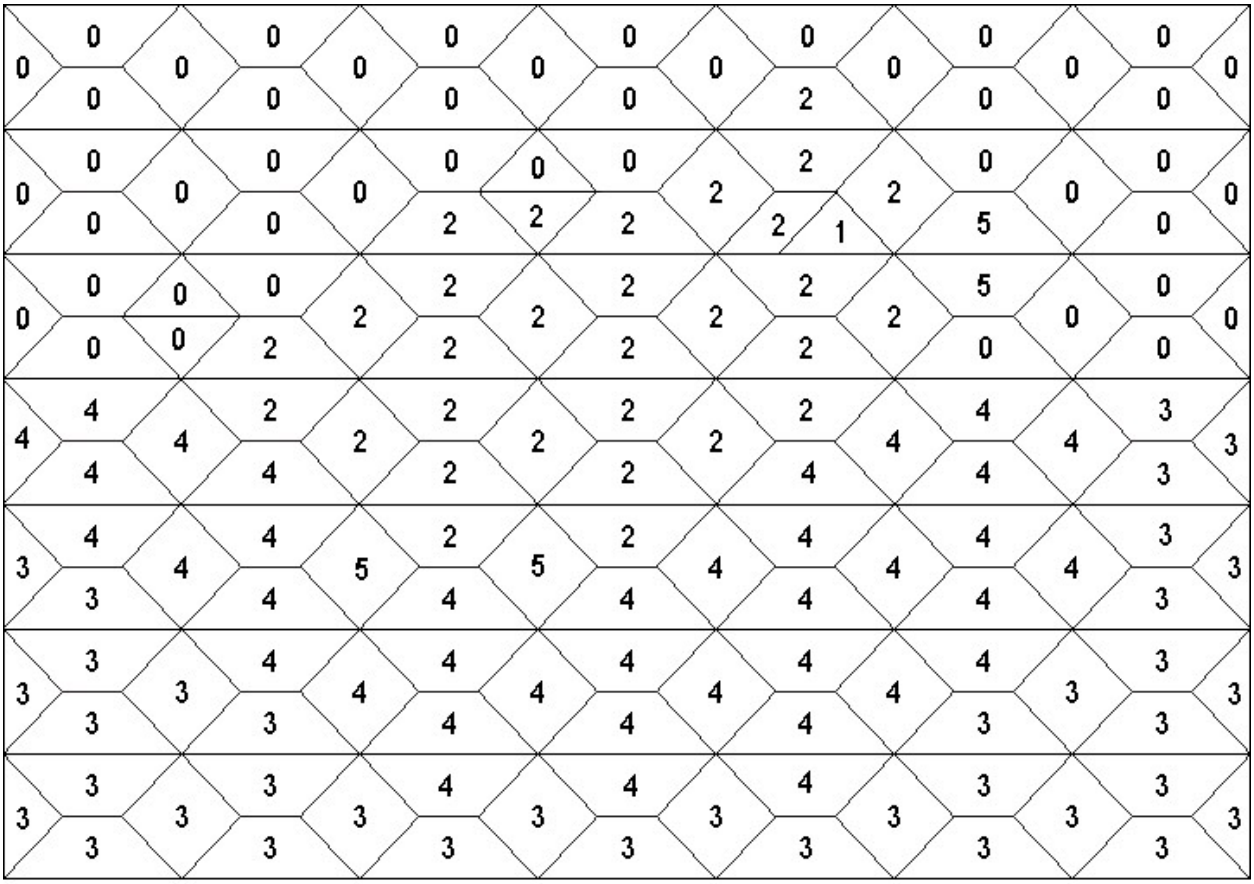

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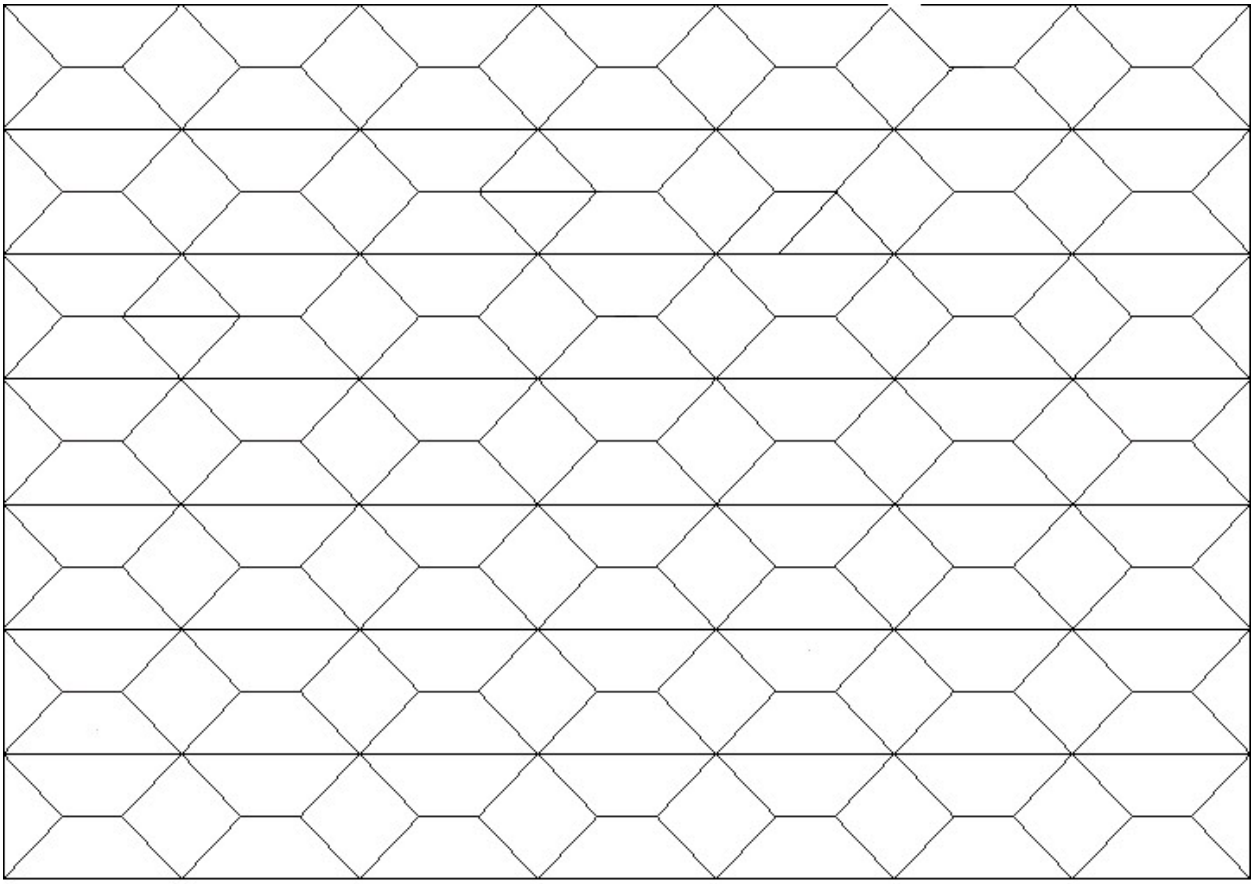

Color the picture any way you want.

Name:_____

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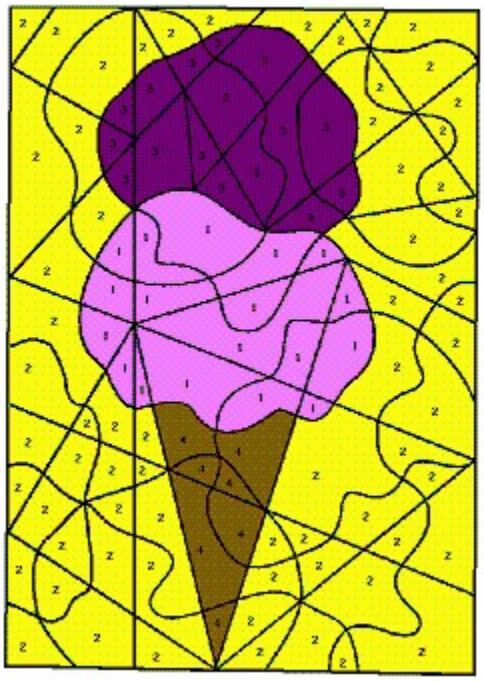
Name:_____

Color all the 1's PINK, the 2's YELLOW, the 3's PURPLE, and the 4's BROWN to find out what is hidden in this puzzle.



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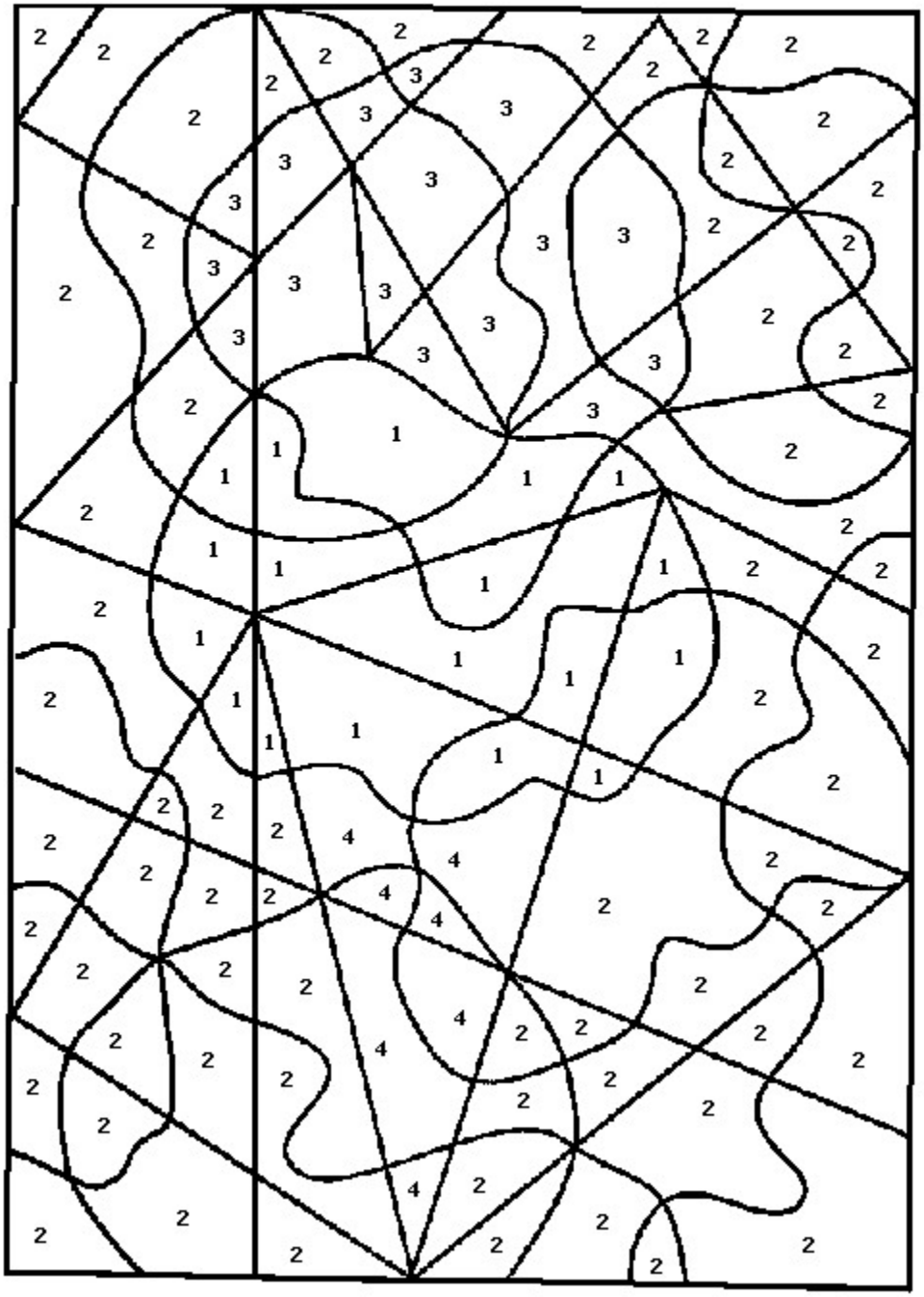

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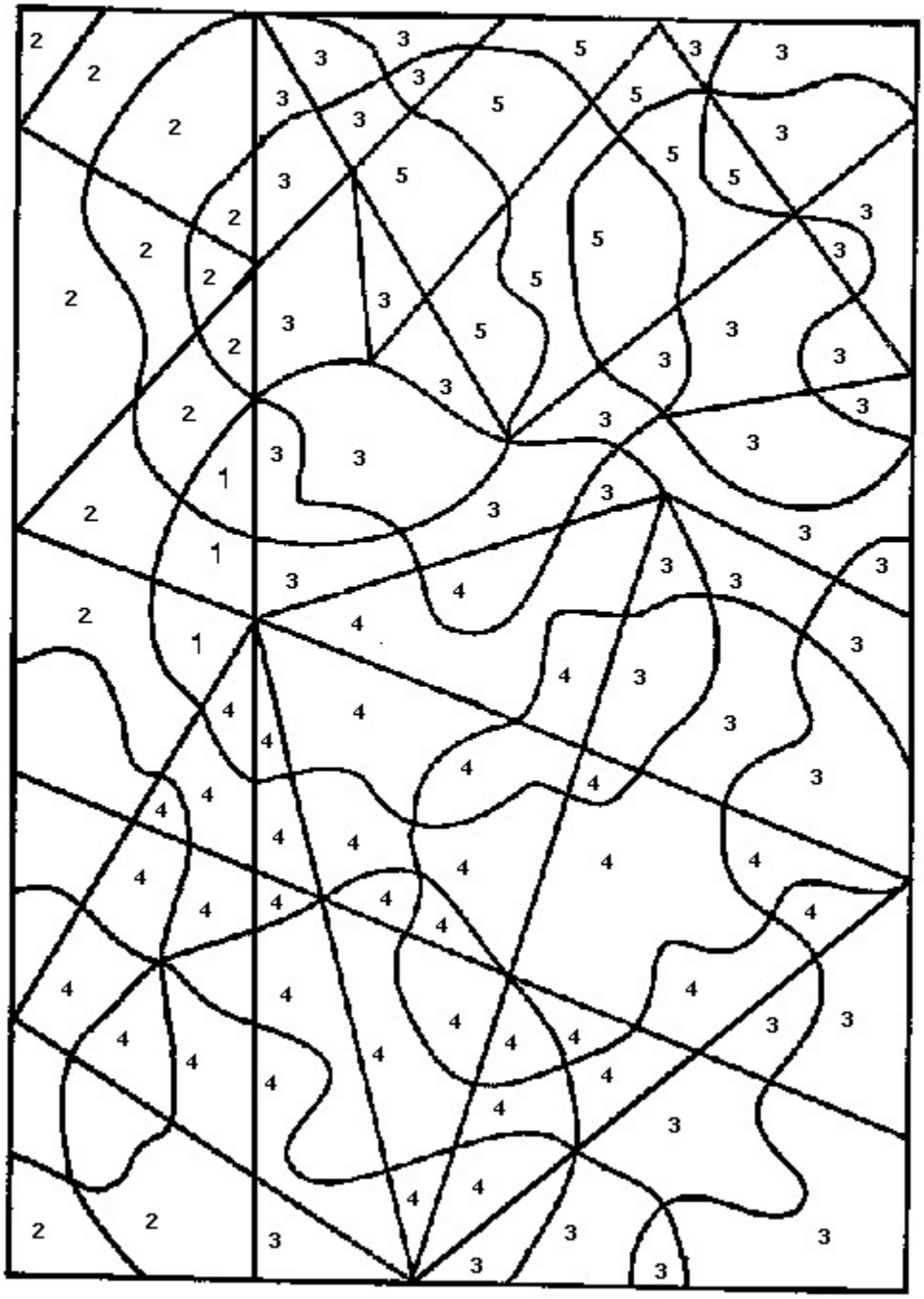
Name:_____

Color all the 1's YELLOW, the 2's BLUE, the 3's GREEN, the 4's BROWN, and the 5's PURPLE to find out what is hidden in this puzzle.



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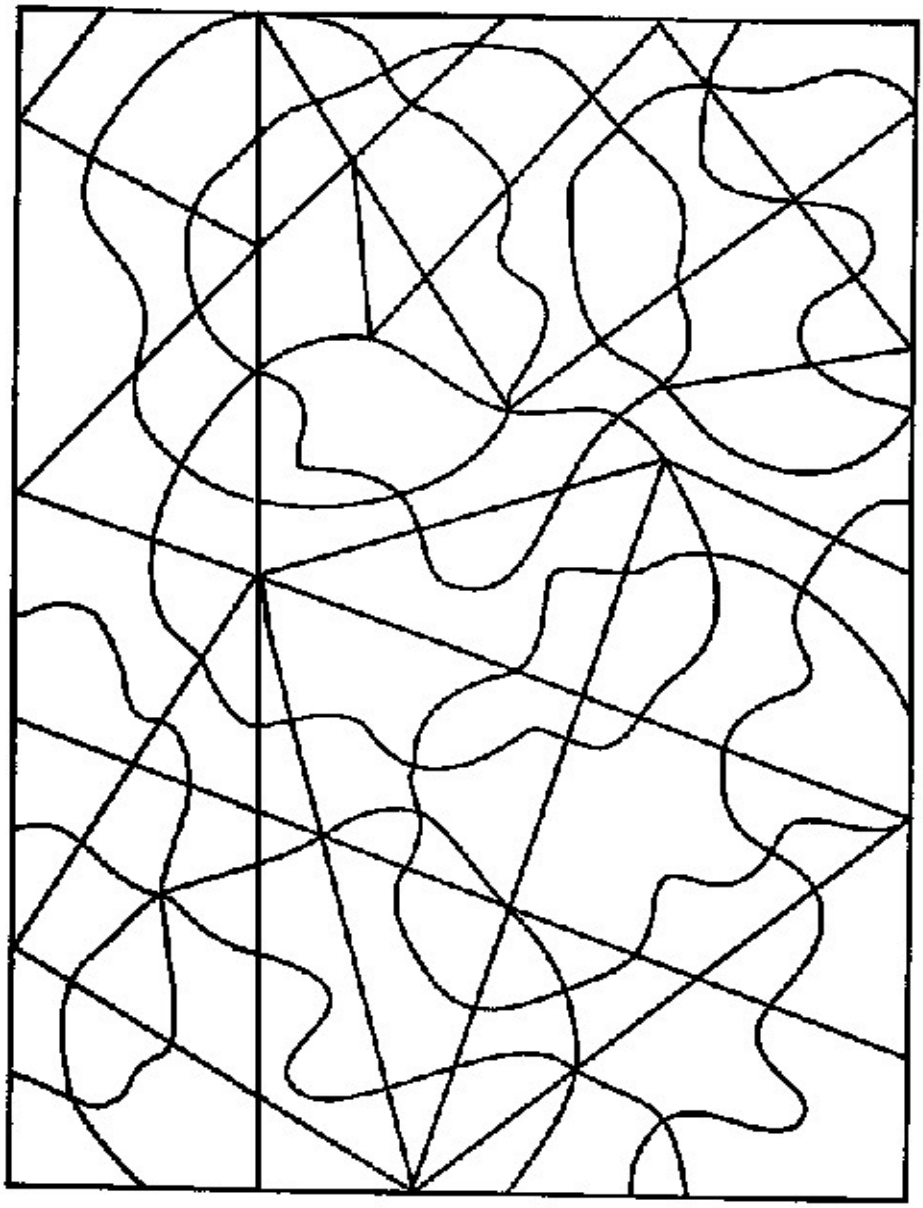

Thanks to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for producing these documents.