DIOCESE OF PROVIDENCE

OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

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Junior High Lesson Plan

Theme: *Come, Follow Me!*

Purpose:

Students will:

1. Understand that every person is called to holiness.
2. Understand that by doing God's will, we will have life most abundantly.
3. Be able to identify ways in which we can follow God's will and recognize obstacles to following God's will.
4. Be able to describe the differences between the different vocational paths we can walk and identify saints who fully lived each of those vocations.

Supplies:

1. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC #1716-1876)
2. List of Web Resources and Saints Biographies (optional)
3. Know Your Saints and Blesseds Quiz
4. Bibles (One for each student)
5. Popular magazines with appropriate content and synopses of popular movies (movie trailers if available)
6. Jeopardy equipment- set up according to your classroom space

Activity #1: Holiness Heroes: Saints on the Web

1. Visit Patron Saints Index[1], Catholic Online- Saints and Angels[2], Magnificat List of Saints[3], Official Vatican Website[4] for lists of saints and blessed.
2. Point out the differing lifestyles of each of the saints, most importantly the diverse ways in which each of them lived out their Christian call to holiness (many of them in the face of extreme ridicule - even from their families).
3. See the list of **Saints Biographies** provided for a good selection of diverse saints, or you can include one or more of your favorite saints.
4. Have students fill out the **Know Your Saints and Blessed Quiz**

Activity #2: The Call to Holiness in the *Catechism* (Combine with Activity #3)

1. Read through Part 3: Section 1: Ch. 1: Articles 2-8 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC #1716-1876).
2. Discuss each section making sure to point out the main points discussed in the "In Brief" sections (located at the end of each Article).
3. This will take a few days to go over completely. Be sure to break up the lecture slightly with other activities.

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[1] http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm
[2] http://www.catholic.org/saints/
[3] http://www.magnificat.ca/cal/engl/liste-sts.htm
[4] http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/index_saints-blesseds_en.html

Activity #3: Finding the Way: Road Signs and Road Blocks to your Vocation (Combine with Activity #2)

1. God's words: Read the Bible: If you want to know what God is saying to you, open the Bible and read it. It is here that we first hear God speak.
    a. Have students read through the following passages in groups (the number of students per group will depend on the size of the class- you might only have enough students for each student to have a passage or you might have to eliminate some- in any case, make sure you know what each passage reads). After reading these passages (and the text surrounding them), have the students discuss the meaning of the passage in their own words. Then have each group share their reflections with the class. Challenge the students to apply the passages to their own lives.
        i. Genesis 12:1-4a
        ii. Exodus 3:10-12
        iii. Exodus 4:1, 10-12
        iv. Amos 7:14-15
        v. Isaiah 6:8
        vi. Jeremiah 1:4-8
        vii. Ezekiel 3:1-4
        viii. 1 Kings 10
        ix. Luke 6:12-15
        x. Mark 3:13-15
        xi. Luke 18:15-30
        xii. Luke 9:57-62
        xiii. Matthew 16:24-28
        xiv. Matthew 22:1-14
        xv. Luke 4:1-13
        xvi. Luke 10:38-42
        xvii. Luke 12:22-31
        xviii. Philippines 1:9-10
        xix. Romans 8:26-31
    b. As a take home assignment (possibly for bonus points) have the students start reading passages from the Bible each night and reporting back to you their reflections. Have them focus on these two areas:
        i. The New Testament tells us what Jesus has to say about the Kingdom of God, the servants of God, what it is to be a servant of God, what that requires, and what is required of every person- The Beatitudes
        ii. In the Old Testament, read the words of the prophets: These are people who had to figure out God's will and answer it without Jesus there to lead and teach them. Their response is a real testament to faith in action.
2. Society's views and School's view:
    a. Society's views: Direct an open discussion in your classroom around one or more of the following topics.
        i. Magazines and movies: what is the message getting to the youth?
        ii. Games: What do the youth see in their games? What roles do they take on to win in these games?
        iii. What do people say when others pray in public? Why? (What do you do when people pray in a restaurant?)
        iv. Does prayer infringe on the rights of other people?
    b. School's View:
        i. Have the students look up the mission statement of your school.
        ii. Discuss the mission statement: What does it mean? How does the school intend to fulfill that mission statement? Is the school following its mission statement? How are they failing their mission statement?

iii. Ask each student what they can do to help the school achieve its mission.

3. Your family:
    a. How often does your family discuss Church or faith?
    b. What is the opinion of faith in your family?
    c. Does your family support the priesthood and religious life?
        i. What if you were to tell your parents that you are considering entering the seminary or convent?
4. Your thoughts and ambitions:
    a. What do you want to do with your life?
    b. What priorities do you have set in your life?
    c. When you look at your life in 10-15 years, what part does the Church have in it?
    d. Do you consider your happiness when you think about your future?
        i. How do you measure that happiness?
    e. What are your stereotypes about people who enter the seminary or convent?
        i. Are they true statements or faulty generalizations?
        ii. Do you recognize, in the stories of those who have entered the seminary, a similarity with your own story? In what ways? (You may want to take this opportunity to go to our website with your students and click on the seminarians page and/or priesthood page to read their stories)
        iii. Do you have all the facts about the Seminary or Convent?
            1. What would you like to know more about? (Teachers: Use these questions as material for the next day at class; do what you can to find the answers to their questions or plan for a priest or religious to visit the class)

<u>Activity #4: Vocations Jeopardy: (Should be the final activity for the week)</u>

Below are the categories. A list of possible questions can be found online. There are enough for both Jeopardy and Double Jeopardy. Feel free to create your own questions from the material you teach throughout the week. You might also want to create a "Miscellaneous" category which asks questions from previous lessons throughout the year. <u>Make sure that this activity is fun for all</u>! You can set up in the same basic way as Jeopardy with groups "ringing in" with the answers, or you can have all groups answer all questions on strips of paper, which are handed in after each question is asked, and award points to those who get it right. The latter of these two formats eliminates the "quick trigger" mentality and allows you to read the full question each time.

- Church Teaching On Virtue
- Vocation Journey
- Which Vocation…?
- Bible Stories
- Saints
- Popular Prayers

Thanks to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for producing these documents.