

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks Jesus' initiation into public ministry. At his baptism Jesus is named the Beloved Son of God. With this celebration 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.

The observance of *National Vocation Awareness Week (NVAW)* began in 1976 when the National Conference of Catholic Bishops designated the 28th Sunday of the year as the beginning of NVAW. In 1997 this celebration was moved to coincide with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

The USA Council of Serra International promotes all Catholic Church vocations. This NVAW kit is designed to assist preachers, teachers, catechists, and other ministers. By fostering a culture of vocations, the Church is strengthened in its universal call to holiness. May this resource meet your particular needs and enhance your local celebration.

Proclaim Good News



National Vocation Awareness Week
January 9-14, 2012

Year B

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or Isaiah 55:1-11

Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4; 3:9-10

Acts 10:34-38 or 1 John 5:1-9

Mark 1:7-11

▶▶ **Contents**

▶▶ **Catechetical Resources**

- » Primary
- » Intermediate
- » Junior High
- » High School
- » Young Adult

▶▶ **Family Take-Home Page**

▶▶ **Prayer Resources**

- » Liturgy Planning Guide
- » Homily Notes
- » General Intercessions
- » Prayer Service
- » Prayer Card Master

▶▶ **Promotional Resources**

- » Bulletin Announcements
- » Clip Art
- » Event Poster

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►► **Planning Kit**

Primary (1–3)

Scripture for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Cycle B

Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7 or Isaiah 55:1–11

Psalm 29:1–2, 3–4; 3:9–10

Acts 10:34–38 or 1John 5:1–9

Mark 1:7–11

►► **Contents**

™ Lesson Plans

™ Activities

Primary Lesson Plans

Proclaim Good News

◀ Lesson One My favor rests on you

Objective: To help children realize that at Baptism they are welcomed into God's family of love.

Preparation: Duplicate *Activity 1*. Students will need crayons or markers and pencil.

Process: Invite students to sit in a circle/comfortable place. Say a simple prayer asking God to help students listen to his word. Read Mark 1:7-11. Explain to the students how much God loves us and wants us to be like his son Jesus. Ask the students for examples of how their parents show their love for them. (e.g. provide a home, make meals, care for them when sick, etc.) Let them know that Jesus left us the church to be a big family that cares for us and helps us to be good people. Let the students know that the way we join the church is through the sacrament of Baptism. Ask the children if any of them have ever seen a baby baptized. If so have them share their story. If not, give a brief description of what Baptism it makes us members of God's family the church. Explain that in today's reading Jesus was also baptized by his cousin John in the Jordan River. Re-read the last line, "You are my Son, the beloved; my favour rests on you." Ask the students what they think God was trying to tell Jesus. See if they can put their idea into their own words. If not, let them know that God was telling Jesus that He was very special, loved and one of God's favorites. Then tell the students to close their eyes and to imagine their own baptism and God telling them that they are sons and daughters of God, that he loves them and that God's favour rests on them as well. In other words, they are special in God's eyes and because of their baptism no one can take that favour away from them. Take a moment and ask the class how they can share God's love with others. What can they do to help others and to make the world a better place. Invite their thoughts and comments.

Distribute *Activity 1* and ask the children to draw a picture of their family or a picture of them sharing God's love with someone else. Remind them that because God loves us, God wants us to share that love with others by doing something good. As a closing, invite the children to sing "This Little Light of Mine" or play "Walk with Jesus" from Fingerprints by Mary Rice Hopkins, or another appropriate song. Finally, you might invite your parish priest or deacon to class as talk about how they feel God's favor and help other by sharing God's love.

Primary Lesson Plans

Proclaim Good News

◀ Lesson Two *Chosen to Help Others*

Objective: To help students understand that God chose them to serve and help others.

Preparation: Duplicate *Activity 2*. Provide magazines with pictures, scissors, and glue.

Process: Begin with a prayer or song, this could be done in a circle or in a prayer corner. Then say a simple prayer asking God to help the students listen to the Old Testament reading from Isaiah. Read Isaiah 42:1-4. Explain that the Lord chose Isaiah to be a special voice for Him. God used Isaiah to share His word and plans for us. Isaiah was God's servant. Ask the students what they think a servant does? Then ask them what God wanted Isaiah to do for Him. You might have to explain that to "bring true justice" means to do the right thing, and to treat others fairly and with dignity. Take some time to "unpack" these concepts to the students. Then explain that God did not just choose Isaiah, but God "delighted" in him, he was special and he received God's spirit. Explain that at our Baptism, God "delights" in us, we are special, chosen and receive God's spirit so that we might do good things and share God's love with others. Ask the children if they were ever chosen, picked out, given a special recognition for something. (Think of a birthday celebration, some other family activity, or how they feel when they receive a gift or present) Asked them how they felt, by being recognized. Let them know that that's how God cares for us all the time. We are constantly special in God's eyes. Ask the children if they can think of any special people in their lives. Who are they, and why are they special? (This could be a parent, teacher, friend, or even a pet) Finally tell the students that because God cares for us and loves us, that He expects us to share our special-ness, love, with others.

Distribute *Activity 2* and have the students page through the magazines and find pictures or words that reflect acts of kindness or of people helping each other. Or you might have them find pictures of people in need of help, assistance, or our love and concern. Have them make a collage of kindness and when finished ask them to explain their pictures to the class. When each child is finished pray out loud over them, "Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one, in whom my soul delights." Tack their collage to the bulletin board where it can be displayed for all to see.

Activity 1

Sharing God's Favor

Draw a picture of your family doing something for someone else or sharing God's love with others. Then write a word(s) or sentence that describes your picture.

Name _____

Activity 2

Collage of Kindness

Pictures of people in need and people helping others.

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.

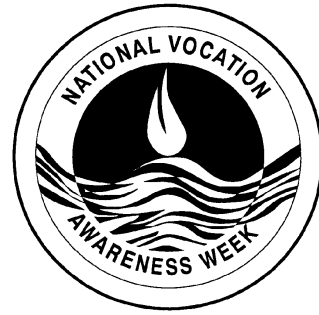
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January 9-14, 2012

►► **Planning Kit**

Intermediate (4-6)

Scripture for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Cycle B

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or Isaiah 55:1-11

Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4; 3:9-10

Acts 10:34-38 or 1John 5:1-9

Mark 1:7-11

►► **Contents**

™ Lesson Plans

™ Activities

Intermediate Lesson Plans

Proclaim Good News

◀◀ Lesson One *Sharing Good News*

Objective: To help students grow in awareness of good news and to encourage students to spread the good news.

Preparation: Run off *Activity 1*. Students will need crayons, markers, or colored pencils.

Process: Introduce the lesson by talking about how the news we hear or read about is more often “bad news” rather than “good news.” Invite students to take a moment to reflect on some good news in their lives or that they have heard about from others. Ask a few students to share. Discuss how good news affects us. Ask: “Why is it important to share and hear good news?” (Makes people feel good, brings happiness and peace, we become more aware of goodness so gratitude increases, inspires others to share and do good deeds) Talk about the concepts of “random acts of kindness” and “pay it forward.” Read Acts 10:34–38. Ask: “What were the good works Jesus did?” Invite answers. “Jesus is living today in us. He does good works through us. By doing good deeds and sharing good news, the reign of God is strengthened. What good works have you seen at our school? What can we do to encourage good works?” Distribute *Activity 1*. Review instructions. Allow about 15 minutes and conclude by asking students to share their bumper stickers.

◀◀ Lesson Two *Proclaiming Good News*

Objective: To motivate students to follow those who are role models for proclaiming the Good News of Jesus.

Preparation: Run off *Activity 2*. Provide books with stories about saints and people who have proclaimed the Good News with their lives. Use the internet, saint books, and materials from your religious education office (e.g. *Witness to the Gospel* bookmarks & saint bookmarks.)

Process: Explain that by our baptism we are called by God to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. We are called to proclaim the “Good News” (the gospel of Jesus) with our lives. There are many people who have proclaimed the Good News and we call them saints. Some of the saints are in heaven and some are still living here on earth. Saints are called by God to do a special mission. . . some are married, some are single, others are priests, sisters, and brothers. Ask students to name a few saints. Invite them to also name people they admire from their family, parish, neighborhood, and in the world. Divide the class into groups of 4–5. Distribute *Activity 2*. Review directions. Allow 10–15 minutes for group work. Invite each group to do a creative presentation of the person they picked for the class. Each group ends with a prayer. Invite priest, sister or brother to talk to the class about their choice to follow Jesus and how they proclaim “Good News.”

Activity 1

Good News!!

Create a “Good News” slogan and design a bumper sticker/magnet

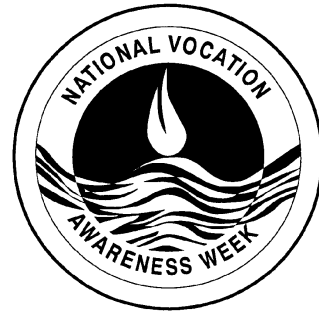
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» » **Planning Kit**

Junior High (7–8)

Scripture for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Cycle B

Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7 or Isaiah 55:1–11

Psalm 29:1–2, 3–4; 3:9–10

Acts 10:34–38 or 1John 5:1–9

Mark 1:7–11

» **Contents**

™ Lesson Plans

™ Activities

Junior High Lesson Plans

Proclaim Good News

◀ Lesson One *Sharing Good News*

Objective: To raise awareness of the importance of sharing good news.

Preparation: Run off *Activity 1*. Have a bible or copy of Isaiah 42:1–7.

Process: Introduce the lesson by talking about how the news we hear on TV or radio or read in the paper and magazines is more often “bad news” rather than “good news.” Invite students to take a moment to reflect on some good news stories they have heard about or something in their own life. After a short time invite a few to share their good news. Discuss how you feel when you hear good news. Ask: “Why is it important to share good news?” (Sharing good news makes people feel good, we become more aware of good news and express our gratitude. Good news inspires others to share and do good things.) Talk about the concept of “random acts of kindness” and “pay it forward.” Read Isaiah 42:1–7. Ask: “What is the good news in this passage?” Invite several students to respond. Ask: “Who is the Lord addressing in this passage from Isaiah?” (Jesus) “Can you give some examples of how Jesus fulfilled this prophecy?” (At Jesus’ baptism a voice said: “you are my beloved son.” At Jesus’ passion and death he was silent and accepted his death. Jesus became God’s bond with us. Jesus taught and healed. He reached out to the poor and outcast.) Discuss the meaning of “covenant.” (an agreement or promise) Ask: “Does this good news affect your life today? How?” Distribute *Activity 1*. Review instructions. Allow time for students to begin to write a “good news” story and finish it for homework.

◀ Lesson Two *Proclaiming Good News with Our Lives*

Objective: To learn how priests, deacons, sisters, and brothers proclaim the Good News.

Preparation: Obtain free copies of *Vision Magazine* (www.VocationGuide.org or 800-942-2811), print information off the internet, or ask for materials from the diocesan vocation office. Run off *Activity 2* for each student.

Process: Invite 3–4 students to share their “good news” stories. Make a connection with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord and *National Vocation Awareness Week* (see cover). As baptized Christians we are called to witness to the Good News. The gospels show us the way. Read Matthew 25:31–40. These loving actions are called “Works of Mercy.” Distribute *Activity 2*. Talk about the works of mercy. Most religious groups and Church ministers use these as a guide for their service to the Church. Divide the class into groups of 4–6 students. Review the directions and invite students to explore the materials about various groups of priests, deacons, brothers, and sisters. Groups share the advertisements. Invite a priest, deacon, sister or brother to talk to the class about how they proclaim “Good News.” Contact parish priest or local vocation office for assistance or resources.

Activity 2

Come and See

Part 1 Below are the Works of Mercy. With these in mind, look through the materials on religious groups of men and women and see if you can find a connection between the Works of Mercy and the mission of the religious organization. Take some notes. May also use worksheet for a speaker you invite to present to the class.

Works of Mercy

Corporal Works

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Shelter the homeless
- Clothe the naked
- Care for the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

Spiritual Works

- To admonish the sinner (correct)
- To instruct the ignorant
- To counsel the doubtful
- To comfort the sorrowful
- To bear wrongs patiently
- To forgive all injuries
- To pray for the living and the dead

Name of Religious organization _____

Address _____

Words that describe who they are _____

What is their mission and service in the Church? _____

Part 2 With this information create a live commercial to motivate people to consider joining this group. Your commercial should be a minute or less.

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►► **Planning Kit**

High School (9–12)

Scripture for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Cycle B

Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7 or Isaiah 55:1–11

Psalm 29:1–2, 3–4; 3:9–10

Acts 10:34–38 or 1John 5:1–9

Mark 1:7–11

►► **Contents**

™ Lesson Plans

™ Activities

High School Lesson Plans

Proclaim Good News

◀ Lesson One *Good News and Bad News?*

Objective: To help students distinguish between good and bad news stories and how to respond to these accordingly.

Preparation: Each student will need a Bible and *Activity 1* sheet.

Process: Begin by sharing about *National Vocation Awareness Week* and its relation to the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. (See introductory information on page one of these lesson plans.) Select four students to read the Sunday readings (Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7; Psalm 29:1–4; 3:9–10; Acts 10:34–38 and Mark 1:7–11). Ask students to listen carefully to each of the readings. “As you hear the readings, what are you thinking and feeling?” At the conclusion of the readings, distribute *Activity 1*. Allow 5 minutes for journaling (Part One). Invite students to share responses to the readings. Complete Part Two. Use KWL (What do we **know**? What do we **want to know**? What have we **learned**?). Invite responses. As Jesus was baptized, he gained a sense of his mission to proclaim the Good News in a world of good and bad news. We also live in a time of good news and bad news. Ask students to give examples of both. Complete Part Three. Discuss responses in groups of 4. Choose two students to record responses on the board. Ask for an example of a good news story from each group and one bad news story. Ask, “How do we respond to bad news?” Invite responses. Invite students to think about what we, as baptized Christians, can do to help. End with students’ journaling.

◀ Lesson Two *How do we proclaim the Good News in our lives?*

Objective: To help students respond to the Good News and to identify concrete examples of people who proclaim the Good News in their lives.

Preparation: Make copies of *Activity 2*. If possible make copies of the prayer card from the *NVAW kit* or you can also additional vocation prayers here <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/prayers-for-vocations/>.

Process: Distribute *Activity 2*. Ask students to journal individually in Part One. In small groups of four, compile a list of people who proclaim the Good News by their words and deeds. In a class discussion, list the people who proclaim the Good News by their words and deeds. Include in your list groups of people (e.g. priests, brothers, sisters, deacons, parents, families, etc.). Now that they have identified the good works of others, invite students to think about what they can do to make a difference? Have students brainstorm a list of activities that they can do to proclaim the Good News in their lives. Use *Activity 2*, Part Two. Ask students to create a website (*Activity 2*, Part Three) —a teenager’s version of the Good News. “What would you include?” Conclude with the Vocation Prayer from the *NVAW kit*. Invite a priest, sister or brother to talk about how they proclaim Good News in their lives or have students interview someone and report back to the class. Invite students to prepare interview questions in advance. Contact local vocation office for assistance.

Activity 1

Good News and Bad News

Part One: Journal response to readings:

Part Two: Baptism

What do we **K**now?

What do we **W**ant to know?

What have we **L**earned?

Part Three:

Good News

- 1)
- 2).
- 3).
- 4).
- 5).

Bad News

- 1).
- 2).
- 3).
- 4).
- 5).

Part Four: What have I learned about how baptized Christians can respond to bad news?

Activity 2

How Do We Proclaim Good News in Our Lives?

Part One: List people who proclaim the Good News with their words and deeds.

Individually:

Group of four:

Whole Class:

Part Two: How can teenagers proclaim the Good News in their lives?

Individually:

Group of four:

Whole Class:

Part Three: Create a website of Good News. Describe what kind of information you would include.

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►► **Planning Kit**

Young Adult

Scripture for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Cycle B

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or Isaiah 55:1-11

Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4; 3:9-10

Acts 10:34-38 or 1John 5:1-9

Mark 1:7-11

►► **Contents**

™ Lesson Plans

™ Activities

Young Adult Lesson Plans

Proclaim Good News

◀ Lesson One *The Road Less Traveled*

Objective: To explore the nature and attractiveness of a religious vocation.

Preparation: Provide a welcoming prayer space. Make copies of *Activity 1* and the prayer service/prayer card.

Process: Begin with simple ice-breaker. Ask participants to spontaneously share words that tell about someone who has responded to a call to be a priest, sister, or brother. Discuss some of the images these words project. Invite those who have an experience and/or relationship with a priest, brother, or sister to share their insights. Provide stories of real people who serve/d God as priests, brothers, and sisters. Include some who are well known as well as others (Thea Bowman, FSPA, Mother Teresa, John Paul II, the pastor, a sister or brother from the area). Consider inviting a priest, brother or sister to come and share their vocation story. Contact your local vocation office for possible speakers. Distribute *Activity 1*. Conclude with prayer service or prayer card from the National Vocation Awareness Week kit.

◀ Lesson Two *What on earth are you doing with your GIFT?*

Objective: To raise awareness of the gift that a religious vocation is and to prompt openness to such a gift.

Preparation: Read through the meditation for pace. Prepare/purchase small gift boxes for each participant. Make copies of *Activity 2*.

Process: Students receive small gift box and hold as meditation is led.

Guided Meditation

Visualize you are standing in a crowd when a young man, Harold, comes to Jesus and asks: "What must I do to be truly happy?"... You can't hear the end of the conversation but you see him go away sad... You now go up to Jesus and ask him why Harold walked away sad?... Instead of answering your question Jesus gives you a small gift... Imagine yourself holding this gift... What is the best thing you could imagine it to be?... What are you hoping this gift is NOT?... Open the gift... Inside is a small slip of paper with the words: "Sell your possessions, give to the poor, and come follow me"... What does this mean to you?... What are some of the pros and cons of the gift?... What are your desires/fears?... Sit down and share your thoughts with Jesus... Listen to his response... Do you walk away encouraged... or discouraged like Harold?... When ready, come back to this time and place.

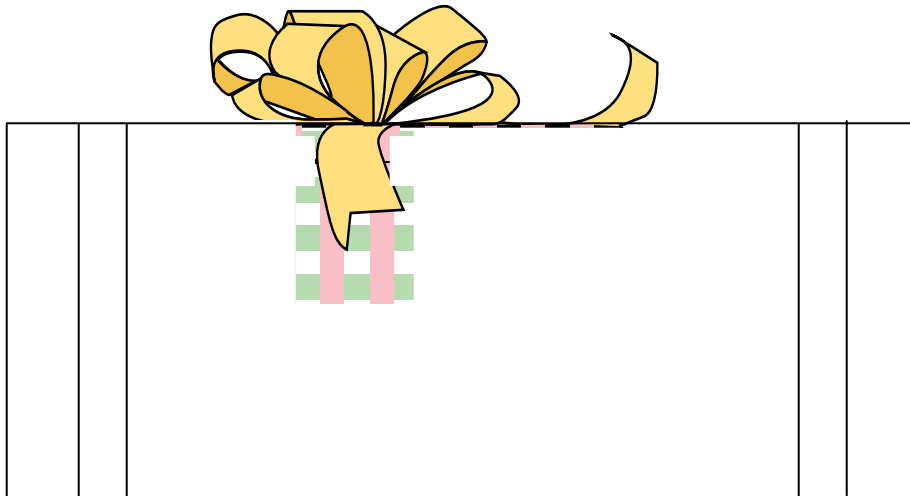
Distribute *Activity 2*. If group is small, discuss together. If group is large, invite participants to form smaller groups. Allow about 15 minutes for discussion. In large group talk about how a vocation is a gift from God and your response is your gift to God. Provide meditation music/song (e.g. *I'll Give* by Smalltown Poets, *The Summons* by John Bell, *Take Lord, Receive* by St. Louis Jesuits). Invite participants to name a gift they offer to God and what it means. Conclude with *Activity 2* prayer.

Activity 2

Vocation As Gift

- What did Jesus say to you?
- When you read the slip of paper in the gift box, how did you feel?
- Was the message in the gift box something you wanted to receive?
- Was the message in the gift box something you did not want to receive?
- Was the message in the gift box something you might be able to consider?

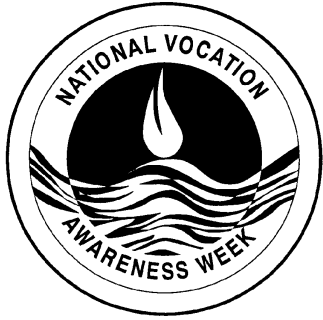
Call to mind the gifts God has given you. In what ways are you willing to share your gifts as a gift to God? Write a short prayer to God expressing your willingness to respond.



My Lord God,

*I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that
I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that
if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.*

~ Thomas Merton



National Vocation Awareness Week
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Family Take–Home Page

Dear Parent,

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. *God bless you!*

Prayer Service

Leader: We gather

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Prayer:

(Child) Loving God, you are always with us. We are happy that we are your children. Help our family be a place where the seed of your love grows in our hearts. Bless us now and always. Amen.

Reading: (Child or parent) Luke 8:4–8 The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God!

Reflection: The farmer represents God or Jesus. He plants his seeds everywhere. Some of the places don't help the seed to grow. Imagine that the seed represents God's call to you. Some people don't pay attention to their soil so the seed doesn't grow well. However, some people do take good care of their soil. They provide what the soil needs so that the seed, the call of God, can grow.

Sharing: *What do you need so that the seed of God's call can grow in you? What gifts do you have to share with others? What kind of vocation seed might be growing in you?*

Activity: (optional) Include the "Grow Seedlings" activity in this prayer service.

Prayers: Offer prayers for the family, world and for people in need.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Concluding Blessing: May God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit bless us. Amen!

You may wish to sing a song like "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" or "I've Got that Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down in My Heart."

Sign of Peace

Grow Seedlings

Obtain different kinds of seeds. Plant them in different containers. Do not overcrowd them. Read the instructions on the seed packages to find out what helps the seed to grow. Take care of the plants. When it is warm enough outside, plant these plants in your garden. Discuss how taking care of seeds is like taking care of God's seed. What will help the seed of God to grow in you?

Talk and Pray Together

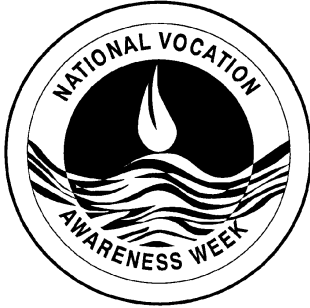
- Set aside time each month to talk together as a family. Continue to share about God's call. Take turns leading the session.
- Create a family vocation prayer and pray it regularly.
- Look up the baptism date of each family member. Celebrate it as a family. Light a candle (if you have the candle from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

Special Visits

- Invite a parish priest, sister, brother, or deacon to your home for a meal and conversation.
- Visit a seminary, motherhouse, or a monastery. Meet and talk with someone who has chosen priesthood or religious life as his/her vocation.
- Do a virtual visit online to a variety of congregations or dioceses (www.VocationGuide.org).
- 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

- Create a scenario that would involve a married couple, priest/sister/brother/deacon and a single person, e.g., *The local parish is having a special event to raise money for the school. The planners want to involve all parishioners.* Role-play what went on.
- Find out about saints. Choose one that you are named after or someone you'd like to know more about. Become that person and tell your story.
- Create a commercial for the different vocation choices—highlight the appealing aspects of each vocation.



National Vocation Awareness Week
January 9-14, 2012

Liturgy Preparation Guide

Year B

Introductory Rites

Processional Hymn

___ *God, Who at the Font Once Named Us*, Richard Proulx, WLP

___ *Baptized in Living Waters*, BUNESSAN, Jubilate Hymns, administered by Hope Publishing, WLP, GIA, OCP

___ *Gather 'Round This Table*, Marty Haugen, GIA

___ *You Have Called Us*, Bernadette Farrell, OCP

Penitential Rite

A sprinkling rite is recommended; replaces the Penitential Rite.

Gloria

Sprinkling Rite

___ *Send Us Flowing Water, Lord*, Joe Mattingly, WLP

___ *Sweet Refreshment*, Bob Moore, GIA

___ *Bathed in the Waters of Life*, Carey Landry, OCP

Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7 or Isaiah 55:1–11

Psalms Response

___ *Ps. 29: Lord, Bless Your People*, Steve Warner, WLP

___ *Ps. 29: The Lord Will Bless His People*, Michel Guimont, GIA

___ *Ps. 29: The Lord Will Bless His People*, Tom Booth, OCP

Second Reading

Acts 10:34–38 or 1 John 5:1–9

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

Mark 1:7–11

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

- ___ *Gift of God*, Paul Page, WLP
- ___ *Life-giving Bread, Saving Cup*, James Chepponis, GIA
- ___ *Bread of Life*, Bobby Fisher, OCP
- ___ *Instrumental* _____
- ___ _____

Preface

___ _____

Holy, Holy, Holy

___ _____

Memorial Acclamation

___ _____

Great Amen

___ _____

The Lord's Prayer

___ _____

Lamb of God

___ _____

Communion Processional

- ___ *The Hands of God Feed Us*, Steven Janco, WLP
- ___ *We Remember*, Marty Haugen, GIA, WLP
- ___ *Jesus, the Bread of Life*, Grayson Warren Brown, OCP
- ___ *I, Myself, Am the Bread of Life*, Rory Cooney,
NALR, OCP, GIA

___ _____

Concluding Rites

Prayer after Communion

___ _____

Blessing and Dismissal

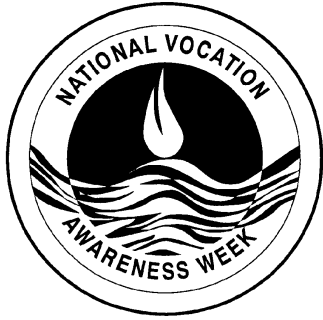
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Recessional Hymn

- ___ *Go, Now in Peace*, Kevin Keil, WLP
- ___ *Go to the World*, SINE NOMINE, Text: Sylvia Dunstan,
WLP, GIA, OCP
- ___ *As a Fire is Meant for Burning*, BEACH SPRING,
Text: Ruth Duck, GIA
- ___ *River of Glory*, Dan Schutte, OCP

___ _____





National Vocation Awareness Week
January 9-14, 2012

Homily Notes

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
Year B

READINGS

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

The Lord places his servant before us and God is well pleased. The Savior will be filled with God's spirit, bringing justice and light to the nations.

Psalms 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Acts 10:34-38

Peter tells the house of Cornelius of Christ; that Christ is God's anointed.

Mark 1:7-11

Jesus is baptized by John in the Jordan, and the Spirit, like a dove, descends upon him. A voice from the heavens proclaims: "You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased."

Connections for *National Vocations Awareness Week*

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord brings to a close our celebration of Christmas and focuses on the messianic role of Jesus. In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is baptized and named God's beloved son with whom he is well pleased. Isaiah speaks of the messiah in this way: he will bring forth justice, and be so gentle that not even a bruised reed shall break. The Savior will be a covenant for the people and a light to the nations. In short, Jesus' life and ministry will bring about the kingdom of God.

In a manner of speaking, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord serves as more than an act of closure regarding the Church's celebration of the incarnation. It also serves as a springboard into Jesus' self-understanding and, ultimately, the fulfillment of his vocation. Further, the celebration of Jesus' baptism also invites all disciples to remember their baptism and their vocation to follow Jesus, the light of the nations. As Dianne Bergant notes:

"Through baptism Christians share in the prophetic and divine ministry of Christ. They too receive an imperative with baptism, an imperative of committed service to the poor and to the cause of compassion. The feast of the Baptism of the Lord is a reminder of the call to Christian service."¹

What are we to make of the Baptism of the Lord? Ordinarily, today should be the First Sunday of Ordinary Time, but that is suppressed with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Technically, the

¹Dianne Bergant. *Preaching the New Lectionary Year B*. (Collegeville: The Liturgical Press), 1999, 83.
Homily Notes provided through the kindness of Rev. Brendan Moss, OSB DMin, Saint Meinrad Archabbey, Indiana.

season of Christmas came to a close at Sundown on Saturday of this weekend. It is such a strange celebration. On the one hand, the Church concludes its celebration of the season of Christmas just prior to this celebration. In some Churches the Christmas decorations are still up and all of our music reflects themes of Christ's birth and baptism. On the other hand, in many Churches the decorations have already been packed away and the music of the day is far from related to the mystery of the incarnation. So, what are we to make of the Baptism of the Lord?

The Baptism of the Lord is a confusing day and it is a day of multiple meaning. It is confusing in that it is a bridge from the season of Christmas in Church but not in the world to the Ordinary Time of Winter. It is a day of multiple meaning in that it is a day about Jesus and a day about us. The Baptism of the Lord commemorates an important event in the life of Jesus and it is a day that reminds us of who we are called to be in relationship with God. Let's start with Jesus.

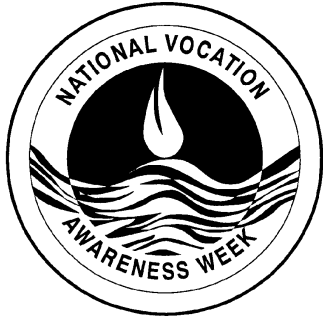
The celebration of Jesus' baptism is ultimately the fulfillment of his vocation. When Jesus enters the waters of the Jordan, he is for the readers of the Gospel and the community of his time, the son of a carpenter. He was thirty and still lived at home. Upon coming out of the waters of the Jordan, Jesus—in his own eyes and in ours—is different. In baptism, Jesus' relationship with God is clearly articulated and accepted. The voice of God proclaims Jesus is God's Son with whom God is well-pleased.

Don't we all long to hear God say: "You are my beloved child, with whom I am well pleased?" I know I do. In fact, the dream of knowing that we please God is one of the deepest human desires. But how do we do that? How do we please God? Today's gospel passage gives us a place to start. Pleasing God involves the acceptance of his love and of our baptismal call. In the waters of baptism Jesus embraces his relationship with God; he hears in a new way that he is God's Son. Jesus also accepts his call. While not spelled out in the text, Jesus knows as God's Son he is to bring the good news of salvation to the world. He welcomes his role to draw others to the Father and begins to live his call upon leaving the Jordan.

Indeed, Jesus' baptism is a model for us. In his baptism we witness an example of how every Christian is to live their vocation. Jesus accepts God's love and strives to live that love everyday. Jesus does that in his teaching, his preaching, his healing and, ultimately, in his suffering, death, and resurrection. Everyday Jesus tried to please God by living up to and into his call.

Now what about us? We were claimed by God in the waters of baptism as God's beloved children. Each of us has been given a call to live a life that will be pleasing to God and fill us with a deep and abiding joy. And there are different calls for different people. Some are called to married life; to commit themselves to God and one other person. Married people promise to be living examples of love for the world, especially through the blessing of children and family. Some are called to the single life and witness to God's love present in every walk of life. Others are called to religious life as sisters, brothers, monks and nuns. Still others are called to service as deacons and priests.

Brothers and sisters, today we begin our celebration of *National Vocations Awareness Week*. For the next week we are asked to pray for vocations: that people will open their hearts to God's call and respond freely and fully. Let's do that. As a community of faith, let each of us promise in the week ahead to pray that Christians everywhere will renew their baptismal commitment to follow Jesus, as married or single persons, as religious sisters and brothers or monks and nuns, as deacons and as priests. Let us pray that people will live their lives as God calls them. In particular, let us ask God to open the hearts of many men and women so they may hear the happiness to which they are called through service to the Church as its vowed religious, deacons and priests. Let us pray that each of us, in our full response to God's call, may, like Jesus, hear God say: "You are my beloved, with whom I am well pleased!"



National Vocation Awareness Week
January 9-14, 2012

General Intercessions

Presider: Aware that God's favor rests on us, we present the prayers of our heart.
Together let us pray:

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Alternative: Gracious God, bless us!

- For world and church leaders (*pause*):
For the gifts of integrity, right-judgment, and vision
that together we may build a just and peace-filled world. We pray:
- For married couples (*pause*):
For the gifts of love, understanding, and fidelity
that families may be rooted in Christ and be witnesses of the Gospel.
We pray:
- For single men and women (*pause*):
For the gifts of compassion, joy, and dedication
that they may proclaim the Good News with their lives. We pray:
- For priests, sisters, brothers, deacons, and all Church ministers (*pause*):
For the gifts of courage, commitment, and passion
that they may be a source of hope for our Church as they minister
among God's people. We pray:
- For those who are discerning their vocation (*pause*):
For the gifts of openness, generosity, and faith,
that they may have a discerning heart to hear God's call. We pray:
- For the sick, for those who have died and for their caregivers (*pause*):
For the gifts of comfort, consolation, and trust,
that they may receive the support they need in these difficult times.
We pray:

Presider: Gracious God,
We thank you for your many gifts to your people. Continue to bless us
through Christ Jesus, your beloved son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Music Selections

- *We Receive Power*, James Marchionda, WLP
- *Proclaim to All the Nations*, David Haas, GIA
- *All the Ends of the Earth*, David Haas & Marty Haugen, GIA
- *The Summons*, John Bell, GIA, WLP, OCP
- *The Spirit Sends Us Forth*, AZMON, Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, OCP

Reading

Select one of the readings from the feast or 2 Timothy 1:6–10a or one that the person giving the reflection would choose.

Reflection

Invite someone to “proclaim the Good News” who can inspire others to let the power of the Spirit take hold. Ask the speaker to promote the notion of Christian vocation and challenge the community to consider, not only marriage or the single life, but also priesthood and the consecrated life.

Baptismal Commitment

Refer to the *Sacramentary*, Easter renewal of vows. As a sign of their willingness to accept the baptismal call, invite the community to stand and bless themselves with the cross on forehead, lips, and heart as the leader prays: “May the Word of God be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart as I proclaim the Good News.” Then invite them to come forward and lay their hands on the *Book of the Gospels* or on a Bible or Lectionary.



National Vocation Awareness Week
January 9-14, 2012

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
Year B

Prayer Service



Proclaim Good News

Call to Prayer

Leader: We gather in the name of the Father, +
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us take a moment to remember
men and women we know who
proclaim the Gospel with their lives.
(pause and invite assembly to name people aloud)

Leader: With them let us proclaim the Good News

All: now and always. Amen.

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Gracious God,
You gift us with your son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
At his baptism you affirmed him as your beloved Son.
Jesus responded by proclaiming the Good News about
your reign. Gift us all with open and generous hearts to
further your reign here on Earth.
Grant this through Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Reading

Reflection

Baptismal Commitment

Prayers of Intercessions

Leader: Relying on God's grace to help us to continue the
mission of Christ Jesus by proclaiming the Good
News, let us pray:

Leader: You call people to married life.

All: Bless them with love, understanding, and fidelity
as they proclaim the Good News.

Leader: You call people to the single life.

All: Bless them with compassion, joy, and dedication
as they proclaim the Good News.

Leader: You call people to the consecrated life.

All: Bless them with courage, commitment, and passion
as they proclaim the Good News.

Leader: You call people to the ordained life.

All: Bless them with faith, integrity, and zeal
as they proclaim the Good News.

Leader: Gracious God, guide and strengthen all your people
as they discern and live out their vocation in life.
With gratitude we offer this prayer through Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing of Peace

Sending Forth Blessing

May God the Father, Source of All Life,
lead us in the way of truth. **Amen.**

May God the Son, Beloved One,
show us how to live a committed life. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, Gift of God,
grace us with wisdom to choose life. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of God, the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit be with us now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Song



Prayer for Vocations

God of Love,
You call us to live in your love
through the grace of our baptism.

Bless us with the courage
to carry out the mission of Jesus.
Grant us open and generous hearts
to see the needs of others
and to respond with compassion.

May the Church be blest with women and men
who are dedicated to you through marriage,
the single life, the diaconate, priesthood,
and the consecrated life.

It is in Christ and through Christ
that we offer ourselves to you now and forever. Amen.



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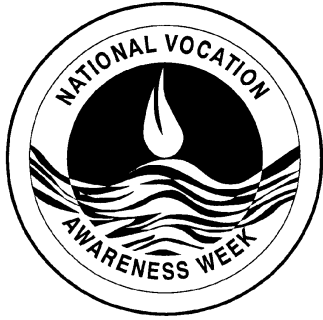
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National Vocation Awareness Week
January 9-14, 2012

Bulletin Announcements

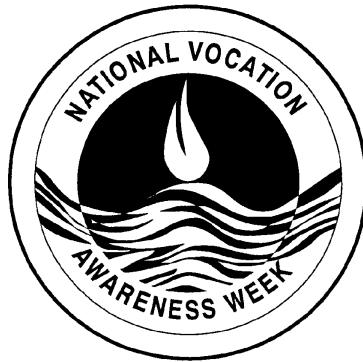
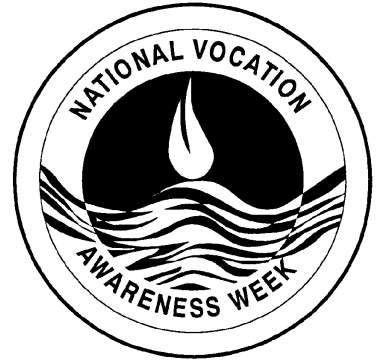
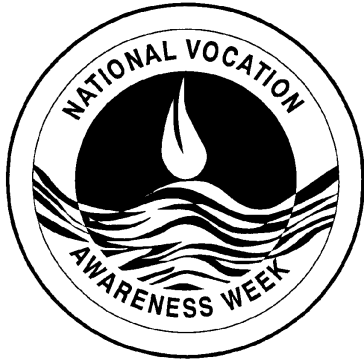
Weekend of December 31, 2011/January 1, 2012

Mark your calendars! The week of January 9-14 parish communities across the U.S. will celebrate *National Vocation Awareness Week*. It begins with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Sunday. You are invited to renew your baptismal commitment and to pray for a strengthening of all vocations. (Include any information pertinent to your observance of NVAW.)

Weekend of January 7/8, 2012

Tomorrow we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which begins *National Vocation Awareness Week*, a special time in which the Church prays for the renewal and strengthening of vocations of dedicated people as married and single people, men to serve as priests, deacons, brothers, and women as religious sisters. (Include information about contacts and any pertinent information for your local observance of NVAW). Let your life proclaim good news!

Proclaim Good News





National Vocation Awareness Week

Beloved of God

Come join us!

Mark your Calendars!

World & National Annual Events	2012 Year B	2013 Year C	2014 Year A
National Vocation Awareness Week	January 9-14	January 7-13	January 13-19
World Day for Consecrated Life*	February 5	February 3	February 2
World Day of Prayer for Vocations**	April 29	April 21	May 11

*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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The USA Council of Serra International would like to also thank Mr. Frank J. Zolvinski M.A., Coordinator of Religious Education and Dr. Kristopher W. Seaman, Director: Office of Worship/Diocesan Music for Diocese of Gary, IN for their time and thoughtful assistance in preparing these materials for our celebration National Vocation Awareness Week.

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. ©2011 USA Council of Serra International