

## Vocation Lesson Plan

### High School Boys, Grades 9-12

Photocopy the worksheet on the back for students. Use the following points in your discussion.

Purpose:

- To introduce students to Catholic Vocations as a life option.
  - To give students an opportunity to imagine themselves as a Priest or Brother.
  - To help students understand how they can use their gifts and skills and commit their lives to God as a brother or priest.
- What is a Vocation?
    - Everyone has a vocation. It's your life's call from God. It is our personal response to give back to God by using the gifts God gave us with an open heart. A Vocation is NOT a job; it is about a way of life. Your job or career is separate.
    - God calls each of us to one of these vocations in life
      - Married Life – A call to a lifelong commitment of deep and shared love in union with another person.
      - Single Life – To live out your life as a single person independently with a serving heart and energy.
      - Consecrated Life as a religious brother or priest, or diocesan priesthood. Religious dedicate their lives to God and to follow Jesus through vows. They live a prayerful life in community and in service to others. Diocesan priest profess vows to a bishop of a diocese.
  - What is the difference between Priests and Brothers

Priests and Brothers in religious life are men who have dedicated themselves to live the vows (chastity, poverty and obedience) within the Catholic Church, following in the footsteps of Jesus in ministry. A diocesan priest promises obedience and chastity to the bishop of a diocese. The difference, to put it simply, is that a **Priest** is able to administer sacraments as an ordained minister, while a **Brother** does not have those privileges. A Brother, also considered a lay person, does not receive the sacrament of Holy Orders.
  - What kind of Priests and Brothers are there?
    - Diocesan Priests** – live and minister in a particular geographic area called a diocese, which is administered by a bishop. He does not belong to a religious community and often lives at a parish. He lives celibately and promises obedience to the bishop. Through ordained ministry, a priest proclaims God's word and celebrates the Sacraments.
    - Religious Priests** – are members of a religious community in the same way that brothers and sisters belong to a particular religious community. As a priest, he can administer sacraments as an ordained minister. He is not restricted to a particular diocese but can be involved in a variety of ministries in many different places.
    - Brothers** – are members of a religious community who dedicate their lives to God through vows (chastity, obedience and poverty). They engage in the works of the community in varied ministries given the community's charism.
  - To Collar or Not To Collar (A History)
    - The original reason for Priests/ Brothers to wear a collar or other clerical garb, was to wear the dress of the common people. Over time, the clothing became a sign or recognized symbol of faith in God and commitment to Christianity. In the early 1960s, a council, termed Vatican II, met and called for modernization of the Catholic Church. Leaders called for Catholics to go back to basics and live more like Christ.

Out of those discussions, some communities decided to stop wearing religious garb, and instead go back to wearing the dress of the common people. They may wear a ring and/or medal/ cross as a sign of their commitment to God.
    - Some communities still wear habits, some wear common clothing, and a few allow the traditional clothing to be optional. *Ask students whether they think habits or clothing of the people is important or not.*
  - Following Jesus through **ministry and service**
    - Men's religious communities have distinct '**charisms**' – a specific **mission** and gift to the church and world that meets a need. Charisms reflect the Gospel or an aspect of Jesus. Often, communities were formed because the founder had a profound experience. Example: Ignatius of Loyola founded the Jesuits to proclaim the Gospel. Diocesan priests follow Jesus similarly in a parish. *Ask students: What can a community contribute to the world? Or diocesan priests?*
  - Activity: *Copy the handout on the back for students. Invite a brother or a sister to share his story.*
  - Resources
    - VISION Vocation Guide - <http://www.vocation-network.org/>
    - Vocation Placement - <http://www.vocationsplacement.org/>
    - Busted Halo - <http://www.bustedhalo.com/>
    - Douay-Rheims Catholic Bible - <http://www.drbo.org/>
    - Quintessential Careers (Career Testing) - [http://www.quintcareers.com/career\\_assessment.html](http://www.quintcareers.com/career_assessment.html)
    - Catholics On Call - <http://catholicsoncall.org/>



# Vocations

What are Vocations?

- A Vocation IS NOT a job
- A Vocation IS a call to:
  - Married Life
  - Single Life
  - Consecrated Life as a Priest/ Brother or Diocesan Priesthood

God calls each of us to live a full human and Christian life through a vocation in life.

Have you ever thought about what your life would be like if you became a Priest or a Brother?

**“FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,” DECLARES THE LORD, “PLANS TO PROSPER YOU. . . PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE.” -Jeremiah 29:11**

## What's the difference between a Priest and a Brother?

Priests and Brothers are men who dedicate themselves to live either as vowed religious lives (of chastity, poverty and obedience) within the Catholic Church, following in the footsteps of Jesus in ministry; or as diocesan priests who vow obedience and chastity to the bishop.

The difference, to put it simply, is that a **Priest** is able to administer sacraments as an ordained minister, while a **Brother** does not have those privileges. A Brother has not received the sacrament of Holy Orders.

## What kinds of Priests are there?

- **Diocesan Priest** – Lives and ministers in a particular geographic area called a diocese, which is administered by a bishop. He does not belong to a religious community or order. He lives celibately and promises obedience to the bishop. Through ordained ministry, a priest proclaims God's word and celebrates the Sacraments.
- **Religious Priest** – Are members of a religious community in the same way that brothers and sisters belong to a particular religious community. He makes three vows. He can administer sacraments as an ordained minister. He is not restricted to a particular diocese but can be involved in a variety of ministries in many different places.

## To Collar or Not to Collar?

The original reason for Priests/ Brothers to wear a collar or other religious garb, was to wear the dress of the common people. Over time, the clothing became a sign or recognized symbol of faith in God and commitment to Christianity.

In the early 1960s in Rome, a council, termed Vatican II, met and called for modernization of the Catholic Church. Leaders called for Catholics to go back to the spirit of the original charism and live more like Christ.

Out of those discussions, a few orders of Priests/ Brothers decided to stop wearing religious garb, and instead go back to wearing the dress of the common people. These Priests/ Brothers may wear a simple ring and/or medal/ cross as a sign of their commitment to God.

## Activity

1. What three careers/ jobs interest you?  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Go online and find two communities that do the sort of work you listed in question #1. ([www.vocation-network.org](http://www.vocation-network.org))  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How do you think Priests/ Brothers of those communities balance their career/ job with God's call? How do they serve God's people?



SISTERS OF BON SECOURS  
[www.BonSecoursVocations.org](http://www.BonSecoursVocations.org)

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