

**VOCATION EDUCATION RESOURCES
FOR TEACHERS, CATECHISTS & THOSE WORKING WITH YOUTH**

GROWING A CULTURE OF VOCATION

Proposed Event for Chicago Archdiocesan Vocation Association Schools Committee

Purpose:

- This event opportunity brings all the vocation life styles in the church together in one place and into equal focus: i.e. married life, single life, religious life: sister, religious life: brother, priesthood.
- It calls each of the life style representatives to see each other and each other's vocation as an essential and dynamic part of the church.
- It offers especially to the married and single representatives an active and visible way of proclaiming God's voice, God's call in their choice of life style – their vocation.
- It calls each life style member to support all vocations with equal reverence so that when a family member/friend/associate is considering a vocation, the vocation of choice would be honored and supported.
- Children/students will begin to associate the word "vocation" with marriage and the single life as well as to the call to religious life of sister, brother, and priesthood.
- Children/students will begin to see each vocation as an essential and equal part of the church.
- Children/students will begin to grasp the constant presence of God in each life-style choice as a vocation.

Title: ***Growing A Culture of Vocation***

Grades: 5 through High School
[The Presentation is ideally meant for individual classroom groups of up to 30 students or so rather than a large assembly because of the opportunity for questions and quality control of students' attention. However, with careful planning, it could be done with larger various grade groupings, i.e. 5&6, 7&8, 5-6-7-8, so long as the quality control is there to protect the reverent nature of the presentation.]

Time: 50 min (depending on minutes for average class period)

Participants needed: * Married person/couple
 * Sister
 * Committed Single person
 * Brother
 * Priest

Place: - preference is in the parish church
- or another worship space
- or in the school

Panel Process: Introduction of Guest Panel Members
Prayer/Scripture. The call of Eli: Samuel 3:1-14, or other
Intro: 2 min. - Vocation Ancestral Tree (See below and follow up options)
Panel: 5 min presentation followed by only two questions
for each panel member
Time permitting: open questioning to panel members
(general questions or addressed to a specific panel member)
Students/Class leave as second group enters.
Presentation is repeated for each group.

Vocation Ancestral Tree of Life

- The Vocation Tree of the Church begins with its root foundation in the earth of God's creation.
- The root system is the person of Jesus, the Word of God, whose life death and resurrection is the foundation for the family of the Church.
- Jesus sends his love and life-giving Holy Spirit through the base of the tree, the trunk, into the vocation branches - the Church, the People of God.
- Each vocation branch is essential to the tree for the tree to grow and continue on. Each branch receives the breath of air and sunlight and turns them into energizing nourishment for the whole tree.
- The branches are: a) single life b) married life c) religious life: Sister
d) religious life: Brother e) ordained life: Priest

OPTIONS: Visual use of Vocation Tree Image

- **Option I.**
 - In art class, create a large Vocation Tree
 - With art materials, form a tree with individual separate parts, that when put together form a large tree:
 - = earth
 - = roots
 - = trunk
 - = five equal individual branches
 - = print on separate narrow papers to fit lengthwise on each branch
 - the five vocation names: single, married, sister, brother, priest
 - = make leaves, nests, birds, etc. to decorate the tree
- [13 parts to the tree, with décor additions enough for the entire class to participate in growing the tree]

- **Option II.**
 - For another class event, “Grow” the vocation tree on a wall in the room.
 - Distribute the tree segments to the students.
 - As the conversation begins about “growing” the Vocation Tree, have students bring forward the particular of the tree mentioned and attach it to the designated place on the wall, i.e. earth, roots, trunk, etc.
 - Continue until the tree has grown.
 - Finally, attach the leaves, nests, birds, etc.

- **Option III.**
 - Periodically “grow” the tree by adding names and/or pictures of people who fit on one branch or another, especially visitors to the classroom, people a student/s has recently met

- **Option IV.**
 - Find a song to sing that would fit the tree/ancestor/growing theme/vocation-call theme
 - Add background music to enhance the creative environment

- **Option V.**
 - Search for scripture references to support the tree/ancestor/ growing/vocation-call theme

- **Option VI.**
 - Search for literature/books/stories to support the tree/ancestor/growing/vocation-call theme for class reading/discussion, or to read to the students

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