

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

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

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School Projects

As a principal and religion teacher, this is what we do:

- invite different speakers each year to discuss vocations: diocesan priests, Maryknoll brother, etc
- when we reach the section on monasticism in Church History in Gr. 8, each student writes a letter to a religious order using the Catholic Telephone Directory for information. When they receive their info, they do an oral report and pass their info around. We develop a great display.
- we pray for vocations to religious life as part of our daily intentions each morning for school prayer and add "especially from our school"
- we feature the "Saint of the Month" contest with a bio and picture posted. Students can chose to participate by answering five questions and win a no uniform day card. This often highlights founders of religious orders.
- we use materials from the Week of Prayer for Vocations and recite the prayer each morning during the week. We distribute resources and have the poster up with the response cards on a bulletin board through the rest of the year.

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Vocation Awareness Program – St. Richard’s School

Article written by a parent explaining the program at St. Richard’s School in Jackson, MI.

Catholic identity is a cornerstone of faith formation for the students at St. Richard Catholic School. In a Diocese where less than 5% of the population is Roman Catholic, it is vital that children are able to identify with the many aspects of their Catholic faith. When St. Richard was founded 57 years ago, the Sisters of Mercy worked to establish a place of learning to accompany the place of worship, St. Richard Church. The sisters served as teachers, administrators, and role models for the students. At that time, St. Richard Church had three priests to serve the parish. Today, lay persons serve in our school and only one priest serves our parish full time. With national attention on the priest shortage, we turned to a focus on vocations to help our students better identify with their Catholic faith.

Two years ago, at the suggestion of a teacher, our classes were encouraged to send Christmas greetings to the seminarians who were studying to become priests for our Diocese. Later, as part of a Lenten vocations project, our Parent Association sponsored a vocations program to provide support for the seminarians. Each grade was assigned a seminarian to support through prayer and correspondence, our “Pennies for Priests” campaign was introduced, and our weekly “Jeans for Green” money was earmarked to go directly to the seminarians. The “Pennies for Priests” campaign called for parishioners to clear out their spare change jars for a Lenten weekend special collection. Our students were at Mass to collect the change. This spare change totaled over \$2,100 and was given to the Vocations office for our Diocese to be directly used for seminarian support. Also during Lent, our weekly “Jeans for Green” tradition of allowing students to wear jeans on Friday for a \$1 donation was collected with the intention of sending support directly to the seminarians. Through coordination with the Diocese, each seminarian received \$60 from the students at St. Richard for their personal use. Two seminarians actually visited our school and the students with whom they had corresponded. The connection between the students and the seminarians provided support to both groups.

Catholic identity at St. Richard School is also exemplified through a special program of prayer in the classroom. Our Vocations Prayer Book was created by our Associate Pastor, and is circulated monthly among the grades along with an “Our Lady of Guadeloupe” shrine. Each class receives the book for daily use as an accompaniment of the Religion curriculum. The book presents a seven day rotation of student-led prayers which include a decade of the Rosary. Each day has a different concentration including: vocations in general; vocations to the priesthood and religious life; vocations for Catholic schools; and discernment of each student’s Catholic vocation. Prayer for vocations in our church and discernment and discovery of each student’s vocation are the focus of our Vocations Prayer Book. Mary serves as our role model for vocations. Whether single, married, priesthood or religious life, all students are encouraged to discover their own vocation with the support of their families and school community. Each grade will participate concluding with May Crowning when our entire school will pray the Rosary together!

The students at St. Richard are blessed to have this focus on vocations to help them discern and discover their own vocation in accordance with God’s will. Our students and our Church are certain to benefit from our emphasis on vocations. As a result, St. Richard students are better prepared to go outside of the classroom with openness to God’s call for each of them as Catholics.

Submitted By:

Susan O’Connor

Coordinator of Religious Education

St. Richard School, Jackson, MI

Vocation Project Ideas – New Hampshire

Activities and a list of Religious Orders in the State.

1. Have the students find Saints of the Church who were Married, Single, Deacons, Priests, Sisters, or Brothers. This website has fantastic, very short, biographies of every Saint you've ever heard of and more. <http://www.catholic.org/saints/stindex.php>

2. Using only the Congregations actually represented in the Diocese of Manchester, have the boys research Men's Religious Communities and the girls research Women's Religious Communities. They should each choose a different Congregation and find out whatever they can about it. Here are some sample questions they could try to answer:

- 1) What is the name of the Community?
- 2) Where they are located in our Diocese?
- 3) Where else are they located?
- 4) When were they founded?
- 5) Who founded the Community?
- 6) Why was the Community founded?
- 7) What is the main Charism of the Community? (Charism is a gift of the Holy Spirit given to the Community, usually through its founder, to use for building up the Church and the World.)
- 8) How did the Community come to NH?
- 9) How long has the Community been in NH?
- 10) What services has the Community provided in the NH Diocese?
- 11) What is a "typical" day like in this Community?
- 12) What are at least 2 characteristics of this Community that would make someone want to join it?
- 13) Who would you contact if you wanted to join this Community and what is their contact information?
- 14) Most Consecrated Men and Women wear a religious symbol specific to their
- 15) Community. What is the symbol for this Community?
- 16) Why do you think Consecrated Religious Life is important in the Catholic Church and in the World?

3. Plant "Vocation Flowers". Be creative and find a way to remind the students that they have a vocation growing in their hearts. The flowers can remind them to nurture their vocations, to pray for their own vocation and to sustain others in theirs. I used the little plastic containers that salad dressing comes in at many restaurants. I used food coloring to dye some rice and that became the soil. I used some tiny gel pens and some silk or plastic flowers and leaves to "plant".

Submitted by:
Sr. Lorraine Aucoin
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Men’s Religious Communities in the Diocese:

Apostles of Jesus
Congregation of the Mission (Vincentian Fathers
and Brothers)
Somascan Fathers
Marist Brothers of the Schools
Legionaries of Christ
Missionaries of Our Lady of LaSalette
Order of Friars Minor – Franciscan Friars
Order of Friars Minor Capuchin
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
Order of Preachers (Dominicans)
Order of St. Augustine
The Order of St. Benedict
The Order of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart
The Society of Jesus (Jesuits)

**Women’s Religious Communities in the
Diocese:**

Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood
Congregation of Divine Providence of
Kentucky
Sisters of Holy Cross
Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph
of Boston
Felician Sisters
Daughters of Mary Mother of Healing Love
Daughters of the Charity of the Sacred Heart
of Jesus
Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart
Missionary Servants of the Word
Medical Missionaries of Mary
Marianites of Holy Cross
Discalced Carmelites
Society of Our Lady of Lourdes
Dominican Sisters of Hope
Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict
Little Sisters of St. Francis

School Sisters of St. Francis
Sisters of the Presentation of Mary
Religious of Jesus and Mary
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement
Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul,
Halifax
Sisters of Charity of St. Hyacinthe
(Grey Nuns)
Sisters of Charity of Montreal
(Grey Nuns)
Sisters of St. Joan of Arc
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Boston Province
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Ipswich Province
Sisters of Providence
Sisters of St. Anne
Society of Sisters for the Church
School Sisters of Notre Dame

Vocation Project Ideas – Rhode Island

Activities and a list of Religious Orders from the State

1. Have the students find Saints of the Church who were Married, Single, Deacons, Priests, Sisters, or Brothers. This website has fantastic, very short, biographies of every Saint you've ever heard of and more. <http://www.catholic.org/saints/stindex.php>

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- 3) Where else are they located?
- 4) When were they founded?
- 5) Who founded the Community?
- 6) Why was the Community founded?
- 7) What is the main Charism of the Community? (Charism is a gift of the Holy Spirit given to the Community, usually through its founder, to use for building up the Church and the World.)
- 8) How did the Community come to RI?
- 9) How long has the Community been in RI?
- 10) What services has the Community provided in the RI Diocese?
- 11) What is a "typical" day like in this Community?
- 12) What are at least 2 characteristics of this Community that would make someone want to join it?
- 13) Who would you contact if you wanted to join this Community and what is their contact information?
- 14) Most Consecrated Men and Women wear a religious symbol specific to their Community. What is the symbol for this Community?
- 15) Why do you think Consecrated Religious Life is important in the Catholic Church and in the World?

3. Plant "Vocation Flowers". Be creative and find a way to remind the students that they have a vocation growing in their hearts. The flowers can remind them to nurture their vocations, to pray for their own vocation and to sustain others in theirs. I used the little plastic containers that salad dressing comes in at many restaurants. I used food coloring to dye some rice and that became the soil. I used some tiny gel pens and some silk or plastic flowers and leaves to "plant".

Submitted by:
Sr. Lorraine Aucoin
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Men's Religious Communities in the Diocese:

Benedictine Fathers
Brothers of the Christian Schools
Brothers of Our Lady of Providence
Brothers of the Sacred Heart
Congregation of Christian Brothers
Columban Fathers
Fathers of the Holy Ghost
Franciscan Friars, Franciscan Fathers
Legionaries of Christ
Marist Fathers
Order of Preachers, Dominican Fathers
Scalabrini Congregation
Servants of Charity
Society of Jesus, Jesuits
Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity

Women's Religious Communities in the Diocese:

Congregation of the Sisters of Divine
Providence
Corpus Christi Carmelite Sisters
Daughters of the Holy Spirit
Daughters of Mary, Mother of Mercy
Disalced Carmelite Nuns
Dominican Sisters
Felician Sisters
Franciscan Apostolic Sisters
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary
Franciscan Sisters of Allegany
Franciscan Sisters of St. Aloysius
Holy Union Sisters
Little Sisters of the Poor
Maestre Pie Filippini
Maryknoll Missionaries
Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate
Conception
Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ
Religious of Jesus and Mary
Religious of the Sacred Heart

School Sisters of Notre Dame
Sisters of the Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament
Sisters of the Assumption
Sisters of the Cross and Passion
Sisters of the Congregation de Notre Dame
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Sisters of the Presentation of Mary
Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed
Virgin Mary
Sisters of St. Anne
Sisters of St. Chretienne
Sisters of St. Dorothy
Sisters of St. Elizabeth
Sisters of St. Joseph
Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny
Society, Sisters Faithful Companions of
Jesus
Society of St. Ursula

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Called to be Saints

Explanation and schedule for a half-day vocation awareness event for Catholic School 5th graders.

Everything to know about “Called to Be Saints”

Who: Catholic School 5th graders/teachers/chaperones/Principals

What: Vocation Awareness Event sponsored by NRVC Region IV

When: Oct 27, 2011 8:30am-1:30pm

Where: University of Notre Dame of Maryland
4700 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21210

Why: To introduce young people to various Religious vocations/communities

What teachers need to know before the event:

There will be a poster/prayer card contest. The theme should have something to do with vocation/“call”. These will be judged beforehand and prizes will be awarded at the event. There will be one boy and one girl winner. Winning posters/prayer cards will be displayed during the final prayer. Entries should be sent to the Department of Catholic Schools by October 13, 2011.

Fifth Grade Poster/Prayer Card Goal:

Parents, teachers and fifth grade students will be aware of the vocation of priesthood, consecrated life, marriage, and single life at age appropriate levels. From this awareness, children will design and write a poster/prayer card that will emphasize listening to God as he speaks quietly to them when the children are choosing a vocation at the appropriate age either as a teenager or a young child.

As another small preparation for the day, each class should work on a question to ask during the panel discussion. This should be e-mailed to Sr Denise at: larocksrd@doc.org. We are also working on a follow up lesson plan for teachers to use after the event. Stay tuned for that.

Children are to wear school uniforms.

Children/teachers/chaperones will bring their own ‘brown bag’ lunches with their name clearly marked. Deposit all the lunches from each bus in a container with school name on it. They will be collected at the event for distribution at lunch time. Drinks will be provided.

Using the entrance off Charles Street, busses will bring children to front of LeClerc Hall and then go to park at The Cathedral lot. Colored wrist bands will be used to keep the school groups together. Please have the wrist bands on the children before they get off the busses.

Children will come directly to Registration table (in LeClerc Hall) and then proceed to the auditorium. There will be restrooms available on the first floor at this time as well as at lunchtime.

Schedule for the Day

- 8:15-8:45 a.m. Busses arrive
- 8:45 Opening
- 9:00 Welcome and Roll call
- 9:30 Keynote speaker, Rev Anthony Bozeman
- 10:00 Vocation Activity (auditorium)
- 10:20 Liturgy of the Word with Bishop Madden (auditorium)
- 11:15 Groups move
GREEN group moves to Doyle Hall (for lunch and exhibits)
RED group stays in LeClerc auditorium
ORANGE group moves to Knott auditorium (for Panel Discussion)
(Students from Mt. St. Joseph's and Mercy HS will serve as
Wayfinders)
- 11:45 Groups move
ORANGE group moves to Doyle Hall (lunch and exhibits)
GREEN group moves to LeClerc Auditorium
RED group moves to Knott auditorium (Panel Discussion)
- 12:25 p.m. Groups move
RED group moves to Doyle Hall (lunch and exhibits)
ORANGE group moves to LeClerc Auditorium
GREEN group moves to Knott Auditorium (Panel discussion)
- 1:05 All return to LeClerc Auditorium for Closing Gathering
Poster contest winners announced
Closing Prayer
- 1:30 Students board busses

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Prayer Card Activity for 5th Graders

Directions for parents, teachers and students for the creation of the prayer card.

Fifth Grade Prayer Card

Instruction for Parents, Teachers, and Students

Goal: Parents, teachers, and fifth grade students will be aware of the vocations of priesthood, consecrated life, marriage, and single life at age appropriate levels. From this awareness, children will design and write a prayer card that will emphasize listening to God as he speaks quietly to them when the children are choosing a vocation at the appropriate age either as a teenagers or young adult.

Objectives for parent and teachers:

- To meet with the parents and teachers of fifth graders separately in various sections of the diocese for sixty minutes. Abbreviated version would be to talk at either home school meetings or before dismissal at Liturgy.
- To introduce methods and content to speak with their children about all vocations
- To explore the difference between a vocation and a career
- To discuss the merits and necessity of each vocation in the life of the Church
- To briefly summarize the priesthood and religious life and its importance in the life of the Church using materials from Vatican Council Documents, USCC, NCCV and Serra Club International materials
- To demonstrate the various careers that priests and religious have that are compatible with their vocations: teachers, scientists, doctors, nurses, lawyers, administrators, etc.
- To emphasize the importance of prayer at home and at school for listening to God's call
- To discuss modeling our own vocations for children
- To explore various types of prayers for children and adults
- To invite a priest, brother, sister or deacon to speak to the children
- To use vocation booklet as a source

Objectives for fifth grade students through their teachers for 10 minutes a day for 10 days in January

- To introduce all vocations in an informal manner through KWL chart and discussion
- To explore what children know about priesthood and consecrated life through pictures and videos
- To read the Serra Club's vocation booklet
- To further their knowledge of prayer as giving praise and thanksgiving but also, listening to God's desire for their life works
- To write a simple prayer in their own words to ask God to help them decide what vocation to choose in the coming years
- To design a picture that will complement their prayer

Rules for the design of the card and writing the prayer

- Art and prayer must be original. (Parents and teachers may make simple suggestions)
- Students may work in teams of two if necessary

Rubric for the Card:

- Think about what you want to say to God about your vocation before writing the prayer.
- Your prayer need be only 35 to 50 words. It must be original and simple.
- After writing prayer, design your picture to complement your prayer.
- Do a draft of your prayer card before using good paper.
- Fold your paper in half. On one half draw your picture and on the other half write your prayer.

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- Do not crowd your picture and draw the objects to match the size of the paper. Emphasize the most important object/s either through shading or size.
- Use pencil to draw your picture, do not use more than the pencil and one other color.
- You may shade and/ or outline the objects in your picture.

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Activities from Catholic Schools of Baton Rouge, LA

Holy Ghost School - Dominican priest gives vocation talk to the boys and Dominican sister give talk to the girls. Since we are a Dominican school we talk about the Dominican Saints during the course of the year.

Our Lady of Mercy – 7th grade vocations project –Students are assigned different vocation groups to research and share with the class. They also create and display their posters throughout the school.

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Activity from Greenwell Springs, LA

Fr. Mike invites girls and boys (usually about 6 boys and 6 girls) to vocation lunch once a month. He talks to them about choosing a religious vocation. The teachers also print out lesson plans for use during vocation awareness week. (I think the plans come from the diocesan website). We say the vocation prayer before all school masses. Our religion classes begin class with the vocation prayer. We have invited several clergy to come and speak with the children on vocations. During vocations week, our students do several projects that include interviewing clergy and writing a report, studying a person (living or deceased) who was a priest, nun, deacon, etc.

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Methods of Promoting Vocations at St. Theresa School

During National Vocations Awareness week:

- At our morning assembly:
 - we pray a Litany for Vocations
 - we have guest speakers (priests, deacons, seminarians, or those considering the seminary)

- At our school Mass:
 - we attempt to find a newly ordained priest to say Mass and speak about vocations
 - we include prayers for vocations in our general intercessions.

- In the classrooms:
 - We will use the age appropriate lessons /videos from the CSO site
 - We have posters of the seminarians posted in various areas

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[225-647-7814](tel:225-647-7814) fax

Vocation Promotion at Our Lady of Mercy School

At OLOM School, we generally do the following to promote vocations:

7th grade class does a vocation project in which the students are assigned different vocation groups to research and share with the class and they display their posters throughout the school.

We usually have at least one religious person come to the school each year to talk to the 5th graders about Holy Orders and one talk to the 7th and 8th graders about their vocation story.

During vocations week, I pass along the vocations material sent to us and each religion teacher to do at least one of the activities.

We pray for vocations at once a yr at our school masses.

We put up the vocations poster for the diocese each yr.

Last year the younger students were read a book about a priest and his journey to the priesthood and some of the older kids watch the vocations video-Fishers of Men.

Submitted by:

Carmel Acosta

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