

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 *avored by God*, 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

NCCV 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.



**Favored by God**



## **NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK**

January 9-15, 2011

---

### **PLANNING KIT**

---

#### **HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)**

---

#### **Scripture for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

#### **CYCLE A**

- Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
- Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10
- Acts 10:34-38
- Matthew 3:13-17

#### **CONTENTS**

- Lesson Plans
- Activities

# HIGH SCHOOL LESSON PLANS

## *Favored by God*

---

### **LESSON ONE** *Called by Baptism*

**Objective:** To reflect on the gospels and on Church teachings to understand that baptism calls us to build a world community.

**Preparation:** Duplicate Activity 1. Provide bibles. List passages on the board. Provide *Documents of Vatican II*.

**Process:** Introduce lesson with background: Jesus was born into a world marked by political and religious oppression. The rich and the powerful kept the poor majority in its place. Jesus reaches out to the poor and establishes a new understanding of the Reign of God and hastens his own death. Divide students into smaller groups. Have each group read/reflect on a scripture passage. Indicate a specific passage at the top of Activity 1 from the following:

Luke 4:12–16

Mark 2:13–17

Matthew 15:21–28

Luke 10:29–37

Mark 8:22–26

Matthew 12:9–14

John 4:4–29

John 8:2–11

Students complete Part I of Activity 1. After 10 minutes ask each group to share their report. Ask students to read and reflect on *Gaudium et Spes*, #29 from the Vatican II document, *The Church in the Modern World*. In small groups complete Part II. Invite students to share conclusions. Emphasize that by our baptism we are shown God's favor and are called to show favor to others. Conclude with prayers of petition for the outcasts and margined of today's world and pray the Our Father together.

### **LESSON TWO** *Responding to God's Call*

**Objective:** To learn through use of the internet and/or *Vision Magazine*, about the ways priests, brothers, sisters, and deacons respond to God's call.

**Preparation:** Duplicate Activity 2. **Key:** e,b,h,d,a,f,c,g. Visit [vocationguide.org](http://vocationguide.org) (English & Spanish). Have computer/s available. Bible (Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7). Resource suggestion: *Exploring Charism Menu* available @ [www.nccv-vocations.org](http://www.nccv-vocations.org) and/or research the word "charism."

**Process:** Begin with moment of silence. Reflect on Lesson 1. Tell students that the mission of Jesus, the favored servant of God, is described in Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7. Read the passage aloud. Explain that as favored servants of God, by our baptism, we too have the same mission. Point out that priests, brothers, sisters, and deacons respond to this call through their vocation and choose to publicly live this mission through profession of vows or by ordination. Introduce the meaning of "charism": a gift that is given to a religious group that inspires their mission. (e.g. a religious order might exist to serve the poor, in a spirit of humility). Divide students into groups of four. Distribute Activity 2. Allow time for research at [vocationguide.org](http://vocationguide.org). Review directions. Allow time to finish. Ask: *What did you discover?* Go over responses. Conclude with prayers of gratitude for these different communities/orders.

# ACTIVITY 1

## Acceptance of all People

---

**Part I:** In small group: Read this scripture passage \_\_\_\_\_.  
Prepare a report by responding to the following questions:

- ◆ Which person in the story was considered to be unworthy or invisible to the religious, social, political or economic structures of Jesus' day?
  - ◆ Why was this so?
  - ◆ How does Jesus respond to that person in her/his needs?
  - ◆ How does Jesus bring God's love and acceptance to her/him?
  - ◆ How do others respond?
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

**Part II:** Read Section 29 from *Gaudium et Spes – Essential Equality of All: Social Justice*. This is part of a Vatican II document, *The Church and the Modern World*. Discuss the following in your group:

- ◆ When, where, or how have you seen or experienced “social or cultural discrimination in basic human rights on the grounds of sex, race, color, social conditions, language or religion” (G.S. 29)?
- ◆ What are your responses to the situation?
- ◆ Do the scripture passages you heard about earlier shed light on the situation?
- ◆ Write a short prayer of petition for people who experience discrimination.
- ◆ Name one way you can respond to the situation and bring God's love and acceptance to the person/people involved.
- ◆ How does our parish/school respond to those in need?
- ◆ Invite parish priest, sister, brother or deacon to share his/her insights and vocation story.

## Answering the Call

---

1. Search the community listings and find out what religious orders minister in these areas.  
(vocationguide.org – English & Spanish)

Education	Health Care	Service as Missionaries

2. Match the name of the community with their identifying phrase.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>___ Daughters of St. Paul</p> <p>___ Salesians of Don Bosco</p> <p>___ Oblates of the Virgin Mary</p> <p>___ Little Sisters of the Poor</p> <p>___ Marist Brothers</p> <p>___ Cistercian Nuns</p> <p>___ Daughters of Charity</p> <p>___ Missionary Servants of the Holy Trinity</p> | <p>a) We are real Brothers with real stories, who make a real difference</p> <p>b) Our ministry is Youth Ministry—evangelizing youth all over the world!</p> <p>c) Our way is to “Walk humbly with God.”</p> <p>d) Our charism is “Hospitality to the aged poor.”</p> <p>e) Our community of sisters communicates the Gospel through the media.</p> <p>f) We offer a contemplative monastic life.</p> <p>g) We are missionaries of the poor and abandoned.</p> <p>h) Our order is consecrated to Mary.</p> |
|---|--|