

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 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.

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

JUNIOR HIGH (7-8)

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

JUNIOR HIGH LESSON PLANS

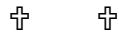
Favored by God

LESSON ONE *Who Am I?*

Objective: To help students become more aware of God's grace in their lives.

Preparation: Duplicate Activity 1. Bibles (Matthew 3:13-17).

Process: Distribute **Activity 1**. Introduce the theme *Who Am I?* The answer may be different each time depending on how old you are, who is asking, and how you feel about yourself. Invite students to complete part I of Activity 1. Invite students to reread their responses silently. In God's eyes each person is special. Read Matthew 3:13-17. *What does Jesus learn from God at his baptism?* [He is blessed by the Spirit, called "beloved Son," God's favor rests on him.] *How do you think Jesus felt?* [Responses may include: accepted, proud, pleased, scared, grateful] *How did this affirmation of Jesus help him to live and serve others? What was he able to accomplish?* Complete part II, Activity 1. Divide students into groups of 4-5. Ask students to share responses to part II. Together create a response to the question "*Who is Jesus?*" Conclude by inviting each group to share its response in the form of a creed statement: *We believe that Jesus is. . .* The class responds "*Amen!*" to each statement.



LESSON TWO *Answering the call to follow Jesus*

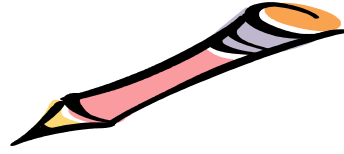
Objective: To provide an opportunity for students to learn about Christian vocations

Preparation: Invite a priest, sister, brother or deacon to share his/her vocation story. Contact your diocesan vocation office for help. Order free copies of *Vision: A Catholic Religious Vocation Discernment Guide*. (312-356-9900/800-942-2811 / www.vocationguide.org). Duplicate Activity 2.

Process: Introduce the word "vocation" and ask students to say what comes to their minds when they hear that word. Ask *What is a Christian vocation?* [a call from God to follow Jesus] *Does everyone have a vocation?* [yes]. Point out that by our baptism we are called to follow Jesus. Some choose to be married, some are single, and some become priests, sisters, brothers, deacons. All people are called to holiness and live it out differently. Point out that a "career" is different from a "vocation." [e.g. a teacher can be married, single, or a priest, sister, or brother] A career can be considered a "call within a call." The primary vocation, however, is a life choice. If you have a guest, allow time for his/her vocation story and Q & A. Another way to learn about a vocation to priesthood and the consecrated life is to visit vocationguide.org and/or use *Vision magazine*. Students could also interview people in person, by phone, by letter, or by email. Distribute **Activity 2**. Students can discover more about vocation choices. Consider another class time to share their findings.

Activity 1

Who are you



Part I

1. When you are asked “Who are you?” what are the first three things you would say?
2. If you ask yourself: “Who are you?” what more would you say?
3. If you ask a friend: “Who am I and what do you see in me?” what might s/he say?
4. If your parent/s tell someone who you are what would they say about you?

Part II

1. How would Jesus respond to the question: *Who are you?*
2. What would Jesus’ apostles and disciples respond to *Who is Jesus?*
3. *Who is Jesus* to you?

Activity 2

What's it Like?



Interview Questions

List at least 5 questions you want to ask a priest, sister, brother, deacon, single or married person.

What did you learn?

How do you feel?

Briefly share how you feel about this vocation choice. Do you want to know more?

What can you do now to discover more about this vocation choice?