



VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK, November 6-12, 2022

Autumn 2022

Dear Teachers, Religious Educators, and Campus Ministers,

With the approach of **National Vocation Awareness Week, November 6-12**, our Archdiocesan Vocation Committee of the Interim Commission for Consecrated Life, would like to offer you some vocation resources in support of your ministry. We hope you will find these materials helpful as you serve the faith development needs of our children and young people in school classrooms, parish faith formation programs, and youth and campus ministry settings. As you explore the array of materials presented here, we hope you will enjoy using your creativity as you help our young people come to know the God who calls them to love and service. Let us work and pray that those in our care will respond generously to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit within. May your use of these resources spark the imaginations of those you serve and inspire wholeheartedness in their response to God's call.

Happy Vocation Awareness Week!

The ICCL Vocation Committee

A Prayer for Vocations

LOVING GOD, Lord Jesus, and Holy Spirit, as you accompany us on our journey,

BLESS our young people with generosity to respond to your call; open their hearts to great ideals, great possibilities and great adventures in their lives.

INSPIRE us all with the courage to love and to serve as Your disciples – for vocations thrive in the good soil of faithful and hopeful people.

INSTILL passion and joy among those in consecrated life*, in ordained+ and lay ministries, and in single or married life.

UNITE us through prayer, sacrament and service, transforming the world in your love.

AMEN.

* religious priests, sisters and brothers, nuns and monks, anchorites and hermits, canons, missionaries, consecrated virgins, members of secular institutes and of societies of apostolic life.

+ priests (diocesan & religious) and deacons

Vocation Awareness Resources for Use with Elementary Age Students

1. Begin with a visit to our very own **Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis Office for Vocations, 10,000 Vocations**: <https://www.10000vocations.org/about-us--staff.html>. In particular, check out the menus under the “About Us” and “Am I Called”. In addition to resources about the lives of sisters, brothers and priests, you can learn about other forms of Consecrated Life such as secular institutes, consecrated virginity, and hermits.
2. **The Power of Sisterhood**: *America Magazine* has produced a video series about the lives of Sisters entitled *The Power of Sisterhood*. Here are 3 short videos (appropriate for grade 5 though young adult and each under 5 minutes) which portray Sisters who are living fulfilling and faith-filled lives in 3 different religious communities.
 - Sr. Monica and Sr. Maria Jose: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xy5NB85dTcc&t=20s>
 - Sr. Celine and Sr. Marie Estelle: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISHRm6GZgXg>
 - Sr. Desiré Findlay: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iMxh3t-63sQ&t=14s>
3. The **Diocese of Arlington VA** has extensive vocation resources including lesson plans for elementary and high school age levels: <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/vocations/promote/educators/vocations-lesson-plans/>
4. The **USCCB/United States Conference of Catholic Bishops** has many vocation materials and lesson plans for all grade levels on their website: <https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/educators-and-youth-leaders/lesson-plans> and <https://www.usccb.org/resources/NVAW%20lesson%20plans.pdf>.
5. **NRVC/National Religious Vocation Conference** has produced a page of **50 Fun Facts About Religious Life** which you can download here: https://nrvc.net/publication/download/9180/2020_study_fun_facts_10-16-20.pdf?view=true. This may be particularly helpful for middle and high school.
6. **“Serra Spark”** is loaded with an abundance of vocation resources for elementary and secondary Vocation awareness. When you visit: <https://serraspark.org/tools/>, scroll to #21 and #22. In #21 you will find vocation talk scripts that you can easily make your own for various age groups. #22 provides short videos of men and women religious describing the meaning of their vocations.
7. **Serra Vocation Curriculum Packet**: <https://vianneyvocations.com/product/serra-vocation-curriculum-packet/>. **Serra International** has worked with **Vianney Vocations** to produce this comprehensive vocation and very reasonably priced packet that will serve the needs of teachers and catechists for Pre-K through High School. The website includes an explanatory video and

ordering information. These materials address the vocation of Christian marriage as well as priesthood and vocations of Consecrated Life.

8. **The Global Sisters Report** has an amazing array of resources of education and awareness materials for middle and high school as well as young adults. These online materials offer insight into the meaning of the lives of Catholic sisters, and it's all free. With the resources at this link you will be able to infuse a wide range of faith topics with the witness of Catholic Sisters: <https://www.globalsistersreport.org/resources/general>.
9. **Called and Consecrated:** <https://calledandconsecrated.org/>, is a free online and multifaceted resource that tells the story of Catholic Sisters in the U.S and around the world. This site contains extensive video material and a wide range of lesson plans suitable for middle and high school use as well as young adults.
10. **Helping Young People Meet the Many ways to live a Consecrated Life**
Many of the available vocation resources focus on forms of Consecrated Life that Catholics may be most familiar with: the lives of priests, brothers and sisters. **We can help our young people learn more about the full array of Consecrated Life.** Some people consecrate their lives to God as consecrated virgins, hermits, and as members of *secular institutes*. To learn more about *secular institutes* visit: <https://secularinstitutes.org/>. In our Archdiocese we fortunate to have two members of the *Secular Institute of the Missionaries of the Kingship of Christ*: <https://www.simkc.org/>. In this 4-minute YouTube you will see the witness of several members as they talk about what it means for them to live this form of *Consecrated Life*. <https://www.simkc.org/missionaries-speak>.

Vocation Awareness Resources for Use with High School Age Students

High School or Youth Meeting Lesson Plans One week (five classes or units)

Primary Resource:

<https://serraspark.org/spark-vocation-tools/21-vocations-talks-for-elementary-middle-and-high-schools/>

Scroll down to **#21: Vocation Talks for Elementary, Middle, and High Schools**. This is a very user-friendly resource to help you shape your presentations in whatever setting and time frame is available to you. There are three talks designed for high-school age youth, and the first three lessons below are based on those three talks. Again, feel free to adapt as needed, but all three talks are available as downloadable pdfs.

Watch the brief video and then **download the pdfs**

1 VOCATION 101

Serra Vocation Talk #1: pp. 16-18

Resources:

Video: Vocation 101: What is a Vocation? <https://youtu.be/ihnzFH2L818> (2:50)

Handout/Graphic: Vocation Vocabulary:

<https://www.catholicextension.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Vocation-Vocabulary.pdf>

2 DISCOVERING MY VOCATION

Serra Vocation Talk #2: pp. 19-21

Resources:

Video: Fr. James Martin, SJ: World Youth Day Talk: Discovering Your Vocation

<https://youtu.be/GpGd8-8eEB8> (5:20)

Handout/Graphic: How To become A Priest, Brother, or Sister:

<https://www.catholicextension.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/HowtoPriestBrotherSister.pdf>

3 CAREER VS CALLING

Serra Vocation Talk #3: pp. 22-23

Resources:

Videos: Vocation 201: How Do I Discover My Vocation? <https://youtu.be/li1klCU31wA> (1:48)

Fr. Mike Schmitz: What's My Vocation? <https://youtu.be/vJz9PbakiZy> (6:10)

The Difference Between Your Career and Your Calling (Oprah's Life Class)

<https://youtu.be/yPeE7d5sfgM> (2:16)

Handout/Graphic: 2020 Study on Recent Vocations to Religious Life

https://nrv.net/publication/download/9180/2020_study_infographic_6-14.pdf?view=true

4 PRIESTHOOD

Lesson Plan (from USCCB): "Called": The Sacrament of Holy Orders

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/Life%20Night%20Outline%20Holy%20Orders.pdf>

Resources:

Videos on Priesthood:

Priesthood https://youtu.be/xsD_esQ0J6E (1:20)

Why Become a Priest? <https://youtu.be/jnaLVE4ayDs> (2:30)

Fishers of Men (Trailer) <https://youtu.be/tNVzkEcf1uk> (2:50)

5 CONSECRATED/RELIGIOUS LIFE

Lesson Plan from USCCB): "A Marriage Made in Heaven": The Consecrated Life

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/Life%20Night%20Outline%20Consecrated%20Life.pdf>

Resources:

Handout: Sisters vs. Nuns-What's the Difference?

https://www.catholicextension.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Nuns_Sisters.pdf

General Videos:

How Pursuing a Vocation is Filled with Joy <https://youtu.be/5d-fJnQOK8w> (3:30)

Newer Entrants Into Religious Life: Catholic Sisters, Nuns, Brothers, & Priests

<https://youtu.be/vqMgUQzPDIA> (1:15)

Videos on Sisters:

For Love Alone (Trailer) <https://youtu.be/j8nnlgo2Pfy> (2:00)

Abundant Hope: Sister Tracy Kemme, Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
<https://youtu.be/yJUwmKrpwPk> (2:35) *

Beyond the Habit: [Sr. Monica & Sr. María José | Beyond the Habit](#)
[Sr. Desiré Findlay | Beyond the Habit](#)

Videos on Brothers:

De La Salle Christian Brothers Introduction <https://youtu.be/Xqmlp6o7HRc> (4:00)

Abundant Hope: Brother Paschal Listi: Franciscan Brothers of Peace
<https://youtu.be/T07O00sEHkY> (2:30) *

**there are several videos of individual Sisters, Brothers, and Religious Priests in this series; they are all short and well-done; check them out!*

Secular Institutes:

(from The Catholic Spirit):

<https://thecatholicspirit.com/featured/secular-institutes-a-hidden-leaven-in-the-world/>

<https://thecatholicspirit.com/news/local-news/choosing-ability-over-disability-helps-secular-institute-entrant-serve-god/>

Vocation Awareness Resources for Use with Young Adults

Want some quick ideas to spark vocation conversations? Want to support discerners? Here's a handful of resources to share with your Young Adults, in person or on your social media:

Videos:

Good general primers (from FTE ecumenical) [Vocations 101](#) (2:36) or [Vocations 201](#) (1:48)

[Fr Mike Schmitz](#) on vocations (6:11)

Search by age range and/or gender: SerraSpark.org (various lengths)

Testimonies: [Abundant Hope series](#) (2 min each) or a [combo](#) (2:40)

Men's Short film: [Fishers of Men](#) (18:20)

Women's Short film: [For Love Alone \(trailer\)](#) (1:58)

[Beyond the Habit](#): the Power of Sisterhood (5:00 each)

Secular Institute vocations: a [combo of SI testimonies](#) (4:15)

[FOCUS speakers inspire](#) to our 1st vocation: holiness (40-60 min each)

Podcasts:

Religious Brothers:

-*Brothers in Brothers-only orders*:

<https://anchor.fm/practicing-catholic-show/embed/episodes/Brother-Larry-Schatz--FSC--Brother-Logan-Murray--BH--Oh--Brothers-e1hl2ri/a-a7qegtf>

-*Brothers in mixed orders (brothers and priests)*

<https://anchor.fm/practicing-catholic-show/embed/episodes/Brother-Ken-Homan--SJ--Brother-Joe-Trout--OP-Understanding-the-Differences-Between-Father-vs--Brother-e1hl308>

Religious Sisters:

<https://anchor.fm/practicing-catholic-show/embed/episodes/Sr--Katherine-Mullin--VHM--Sr--Stephanie-Spandl--SSND-Catholic-Sisters-Week---Recognizing-the-Call-e1fotbg/a-a7j4hgd>

Informational Landing Websites:

Archdiocese of SPM: 10000vocations.org or USCCB Vocations

Sisters Projects: [Called and Consecrated](#) (lesson plans etc) or [ImagineSisters](#)

Cloistered Vocations: CloisteredLife.com

Consecrated Virginit: ConsecratedVirgins.org

Brother Vocation: ReligiousBrotherhood.com

Called to a Secular Institute? SecularInstitutes.org

Group Discernment of priesthood: [The Melchizedek Project](#)

[VISION](#) : matching, statistics, resources, calendars etc.

Ministry ideas:

Promote a [discernment webinar](#) or make it a discernment watch party

Host a [busy students' retreat](#) (USCCB)

Celebrate [annual events](#): Religious Bros' Day, Sisters' Week, World Day for CL

Plan (or inspire *them* to plan) a [vocations run](#) to several religious houses/seminaries

Invite local [consecrated persons to speak or zoom in](#) (Find: [local consecrated in our diocese](#))

Books:

USCCB: solid [Books for Discernment](#) infographic

Articles:

Fr Mike Schmitz: [3 things to do everyday](#) discerning your vocation

USCCB: [Many forms of Consecrated Life](#)

Secular Institutes (The Catholic Spirit):

<https://thecatholicspirit.com/featured/secular-institutes-a-hidden-leaven-in-the-world/>

<https://thecatholicspirit.com/news/local-news/choosing-ability-over-disability-helps-secular-institute-entrant-serve-god/>

Music & Vocations: Here's [one suggested playlist](#) for discernment; songs like [Oceans Rise](#),

or Classics: [The Summons](#), [The Servant Song](#), or [Channel of Your Peace \(Fr. Stan\)](#)

or Religious making music: [Rising playlist](#), [Harbor](#), [+ your faves here]