



School Vocations Resources

Welcome to *OzVocations* – www.catholicozvocations.org.au - our national vocations website! We hope that these School Resource pages will provide much inspiration and practical assistance for primary and secondary teachers. We would always appreciate hearing from you, and would gratefully receive feedback, suggestions, ideas to be shared on-line with other teachers, and/or reports of activities, resources, programmes etc. that you have found helpful in your attempts to foster a ‘culture of vocations’ in your school or region.

Junior – Middle Primary Lesson Ideas ...a ‘Pot Pourri’

The following ideas and activities are offered by CVMA in the hope that they will supplement existing RE programmes and resources, and assist with teaching and reinforcing the basic concepts of *Vocations Awareness Education*, which, at Junior and Middle Primary level are:

- We belong to a family, and we are called by name
- Through Baptism, we are called to join the Christian family of Jesus, and to be the best people we can possibly be. This is our *vocation!*
- Every person is unique and individually gifted by God.
- We are challenged to share our gifts, and to become our ‘best self’ so that we can contribute most fully to our small part of the world.
- Because of the variety of God-given gifts and talents, people are called to serve the community in different ways.
- Adults choose different vocational paths that, hopefully, best suit their gifts and personalities, and enable them to experience and enjoy that ‘fullness of life’ promised by Jesus.

(Inspired by “*Vocations ... Building up the Body of Christ: A Primary School RE Resource*” - Diocese of Sandhurst, Victoria, 1997)

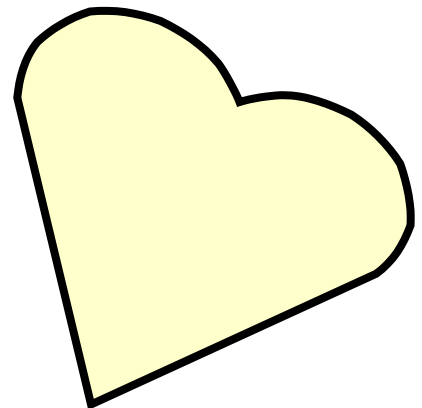
★ Teach about Baptism:

- It is a sign that we belong to Jesus
- When we go into a church, we make a splash with the special water in the ‘holy water font’. Then we make a sign of the cross with our wet fingers. Why do we do this? The sign of the cross reminds us of Jesus’ love for us; the holy water helps us to remember our Baptism. We were baptised with water, and welcomed into the church – the family of God.
- When we belong to Jesus, we try to do what Jesus did - We try to be loving, forgiving, helpful people

- * Visit the parish Church with the children – show them the Baptismal Font and the Holy Water font – which helps us all remember that we are called to follow Jesus. Perhaps you may even be able to show them the parish’s Baptismal Register, and find some of their names.
- * Ask children to talk with their parents about their Baptism ... How old were they? ... Did they have a special candle? ... Who are their ‘God’-parents? Do they have any photos of this special event? ... Who was there with them to celebrate? ...What are their favourite memories of this child’s Baptism day?
- * Explore the meaning of the simple sentence: *“I have a vocation”* ... (Differentiate between ‘vocation’ and ‘vacation’!!) Jumble up the letters of this sentence: how many words can we make out of these letters?
- * Jesus had a vocation! Like me, Jesus was also Baptised. Tell the story of Jesus’ Baptism (Matthew 3:13-17) ... draw the story ... dramatise it.
- * After he was Baptised, Jesus chose to do kind things for others. This was his “ministry”. Tell other Gospel stories illustrating some of the good things Jesus did for others: healing, teaching, talking, hugging little children, listening, caring ... This is how Jesus lived out his vocation.
- * Jesus invited other people to follow him and help him to do God’s work. This was their vocation. These people were called Jesus’ *apostles* and *disciples*. Before Jesus went to heaven, he asked his friends to call and baptise more followers to do God’s work.
- * Read or tell stories (either fact or fiction) of people who have really made a difference in their small part of the world because they have shared their talents generously. These people are also Jesus’ apostles or disciples! Talk about the story draw it ... dramatise it ... make up a song about it etc.
- * Explain to the children that when we try to share the love that Jesus has given us, we are following our vocation. Grown-ups follow a vocation too!
 - Many people follow their vocation by getting married and caring for a family. *Do you know any married people?*
 - Some grown-ups might not marry, or have children, but they still care for others. That’s a vocation too – it’s called a ‘single’ vocation. *Do you know any single people?*
 - Some people follow their vocation by becoming priests, or brothers, or sisters or deacons. *Do you know any priests, or (church) brothers, or sisters (nuns) or deacons?*
- * Invite guest speakers (local adults) who have chosen different vocations: a married person/couple, a single person, a sister (nun) or (church) brother, a priest. Ask them: What is their vocation? ... How do they share their talents and their love with others? ... How does their vocation bring them happiness? ... How does it help them to be their ‘best self’? (Prepare the children before the event ... encourage them to ask their guest/s questions.)

- ★ Encourage the children to talk with their parents ... grandparents ... aunts ... uncles ... god-parents ... adult neighbours ... about their vocations. Perhaps ask them the same questions as they have prepared for their classroom guests. Report back to the class ... write a story or draw/paint the people they have interviewed – let the picture tell its own story! Make a class collage out of these pictures, with a slogan such as: *“Grown-ups have different vocations!”*
- ★ Using pictures, stories, headlines, make a bulletin-board display or a collage depicting adults living out their vocations (not *‘occupations’*). Encourage the children to write/talk about this display ... how do these people share their gifts and talents?
- ★ Think, talk, write, draw ... about the vocations of grown-ups ... how do they share their gifts and lives with others?
 - If I were a Dad I would ...
 - If I were a Mum I would ...
 - If I were a Priest I would ...
 - If I were a Sister (nun) or a Brother I would ...
 - If I were a Single Person I would
 - If I were a Deacon I would ...
- ★ *My Gifts* ... help the children find out more about the gifts God has given them. One way of understanding their gifts is by seeing the kinds of things they are good at, or that they like to do ... Perhaps there are some special gifts that are hidden inside them? ... How do/can they share their gifts with others?
There is ample scope for oral and written language work, creative writing, poetry, art, movement, drama and music to develop this concept.
- ★ Read Samuel 3:1-10.
Ask students to close their eyes and quietly repeat in their hearts: “Speak Lord, your servant is listening” or “Be still and know that I am God”
Give each child a handout sheet on which is drawn a large heart, and the question:

**What does Jesus
want me to do today
to follow him?**



Allow time for ... thinking ... writing ... drawing/decorating ... ‘show-and-tell’ ...
Gather the completed sheets and make a class collage entitled: *Our vocation is to follow Jesus!*

- * Create a handout sheet headed with Jesus' words *COME FOLLOW ME* in large letters that can be coloured in. Allow time for colouring and decorating these words. Then have children think about, then write about three things they do because they follow Jesus.
- * Create a word chart of all the new words the children have encountered through your vocations unit: vocation, call, baptised, baptism, baptismal font, holy water font, God-parents, follow, married, single, priest, sister, nun, brother, deacon, gifts, talents, ministry, apostles, disciples,!
- * Compose a simple class 'vocations payer' – pray it regularly with the children. These samples, written by older children, might be helpful as a starter. They could be simplified:
 - ◇ *Dear God,
Guide us throughout our life.
Give us all the strength and courage we need to make the right decisions
as we follow the path that you call us to take.
Even though sometimes we make wrong choices,
please forgive us and give us the strength to carry on.
Amen.*
 - ◇ *Dear God,
Help us and guide us as we journey through life.
Help us to use the talents and gifts you have given us
to make our world a better place.
As we grow older
help us to find the vocation that will make us happy and loving people
who will help others to discover how much you love them.
Amen*
- * National Vocations Awareness Week is celebrated across Australia in early August of each year. It is geared to helping people, from the youngest child, to understand the nature of the Christian Vocation. Any or all of the above activities could be used during this week.
- * Take and break open the meaning of the words *national ... vocations ... awareness ...* Why do we have this week each year?
- * Look at the words in the title *National Vocations Awareness Week*: How many letters are there in these words? ... How many small words can we make from all of these letters. Perhaps have a competition in small groups – which group can find the most small words?
- * Brainstorm with the children: what other 'vocations activities' could they suggest?