



National Vocation Awareness Week
January 9-14, 2012

Family Take-Home Page

Dear Parent,

This is National Vocation Awareness Week. This family page has suggestions for how you may celebrate this week at home. These activities can be done at anytime during the year. We hope you will find these suggestions helpful as you create an environment that fosters family life, rooted in your Catholic Christian faith. *God bless you!*

Prayer Service

Leader: We gather

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Prayer:

(Child) Loving God, you are always with us. We are happy that we are your children. Help our family be a place where the seed of your love grows in our hearts. Bless us now and always. Amen.

Reading: (Child or parent) Luke 8:4-8 The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God!

Reflection: The farmer represents God or Jesus. He plants his seeds everywhere. Some of the places don't help the seed to grow. Imagine that the seed represents God's call to you. Some people don't pay attention to their soil so the seed doesn't grow well. However, some people do take good care of their soil. They provide what the soil needs so that the seed, the call of God, can grow.

Sharing: *What do you need so that the seed of God's call can grow in you? What gifts do you have to share with others? What kind of vocation seed might be growing in you?*

Activity: (optional) Include the "Grow Seedlings" activity in this prayer service.

Prayers: Offer prayers for the family, world and for people in need.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Concluding Blessing: May God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit bless us. Amen!

You may wish to sing a song like "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" or "I've Got that Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down in My Heart."

Sign of Peace

Grow Seedlings

Obtain different kinds of seeds. Plant them in different containers. Do not overcrowd them. Read the instructions on the seed packages to find out what helps the seed to grow. Take care of the plants. When it is warm enough outside, plant these plants in your garden. Discuss how taking care of seeds is like taking care of God's seed. What will help the seed of God to grow in you?

Talk and Pray Together

- Set aside time each month to talk together as a family. Continue to share about God's call. Take turns leading the session.
- Create a family vocation prayer and pray it regularly.
- Look up the baptism date of each family member. Celebrate it as a family. Light a candle (if you have the candle from the actual baptism, light that one.) Share pictures/video and memories of the baptism. Talk about what baptism means. Pray the Apostles' Creed together. Parents may want to give a special gift of religious significance on the anniversary of their child's baptism.

Special Visits

- Invite a parish priest, sister, brother, or deacon to your home for a meal and conversation.
- Visit a seminary, motherhouse, or a monastery. Meet and talk with someone who has chosen priesthood or religious life as his/her vocation.
- Do a virtual visit online to a variety of congregations or dioceses (www.VocationGuide.org).
- Go to your local vocation office and get information about religious vocations and events that may be going on in the diocese. Try to attend at least one event this year.
- Check with local seminary or motherhouse to see what is available for your children to participate in. They may sponsor a youth summer camp, etc.

Play

- Create a scenario that would involve a married couple, priest/sister/brother/deacon and a single person, e.g., *The local parish is having a special event to raise money for the school. The planners want to involve all parishioners.* Role-play what went on.
- Find out about saints. Choose one that you are named after or someone you'd like to know more about. Become that person and tell your story.
- Create a commercial for the different vocation choices—highlight the appealing aspects of each vocation.