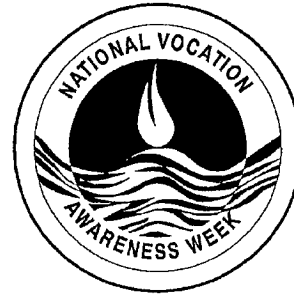


The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks Jesus' initiation into public ministry. At his baptism Jesus is named the Beloved Son of God. With this celebration we recommit ourselves to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Initiated through our baptism we too are commissioned to proclaim Good News with our 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.

The USA Council of Serra International 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.



National Vocation Awareness Week
January 9-14, 2012

►► **Planning Kit**

High School (9–12)

Scripture for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Cycle B

Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7 or Isaiah 55:1–11
Psalm 29:1–2, 3–4; 3:9–10
Acts 10:34–38 or 1John 5:1–9
Mark 1:7–11

►► **Contents**

™ Lesson Plans

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High School Lesson Plans

Proclaim Good News

◀ Lesson One *Good News and Bad News?*

Objective: To help students distinguish between good and bad news stories and how to respond to these accordingly.

Preparation: Each student will need a Bible and *Activity 1* sheet.

Process: Begin by sharing about *National Vocation Awareness Week* and its relation to the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. (See introductory information on page one of these lesson plans.) Select four students to read the Sunday readings (Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7; Psalm 29:1–4; 3:9–10; Acts 10:34–38 and Mark 1:7–11). Ask students to listen carefully to each of the readings. “As you hear the readings, what are you thinking and feeling?” At the conclusion of the readings, distribute *Activity 1*. Allow 5 minutes for journaling (Part One). Invite students to share responses to the readings. Complete Part Two. Use KWL (What do we know? What do we want to know? What have we learned?). Invite responses. As Jesus was baptized, he gained a sense of his mission to proclaim the Good News in a world of good and bad news. We also live in a time of good news and bad news. Ask students to give examples of both. Complete Part Three. Discuss responses in groups of 4. Choose two students to record responses on the board. Ask for an example of a good news story from each group and one bad news story. Ask, “How do we respond to bad news?” Invite responses. Invite students to think about what we, as baptized Christians, can do to help. End with students’ journaling.

◀ Lesson Two *How do we proclaim the Good News in our lives?*

Objective: To help students respond to the Good News and to identify concrete examples of people who proclaim the Good News in their lives.

Preparation: Make copies of *Activity 2*. If possible make copies of the prayer card from the *NVAW kit* or you can also additional vocation prayers here <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/prayers-for-vocations/>.

Process: Distribute *Activity 2*. Ask students to journal individually in Part One. In small groups of four, compile a list of people who proclaim the Good News by their words and deeds. In a class discussion, list the people who proclaim the Good News by their words and deeds. Include in your list groups of people (e.g. priests, brothers, sisters, deacons, parents, families, etc.). Now that they have identified the good works of others, invite students to think about what they can do to make a difference? Have students brainstorm a list of activities that they can do to proclaim the Good News in their lives. Use *Activity 2*, Part Two. Ask students to create a website (*Activity 2*, Part Three) —a teenager’s version of the Good News. “What would you include?” Conclude with the Vocation Prayer from the *NVAW kit*. Invite a priest, sister or brother to talk about how they proclaim Good News in their lives or have students interview someone and report back to the class. Invite students to prepare interview questions in advance. Contact local vocation office for assistance.

Activity 1

Good News and Bad News

Part One: Journal response to readings:

Part Two: Baptism

What do we **K**now?

What do we **W**ant to know?

What have we **L**earned?

Part Three:

Good News

- 1)
- 2).
- 3).
- 4).
- 5).

Bad News

- 1).
- 2).
- 3).
- 4).
- 5).

Part Four: What have I learned about how baptized Christians can respond to bad news?

Activity 2

How Do We Proclaim Good News in Our Lives?

Part One: List people who proclaim the Good News with their words and deeds.

Individually:

Group of four:

Whole Class:

Part Two: How can teenagers proclaim the Good News in their lives?

Individually:

Group of four:

Whole Class:

Part Three: Create a website of Good News. Describe what kind of information you would include.
