

Grade 6 - Chapter 17

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Discover

Catechist Edition Instruction

Discover (1)

Objectives

- Discuss how Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet, though surprising, was a sign of his love and a model of serving others
- Define vocation as the purpose for which God made us and a call to love and serve God and others

Called to Serve

Ask: What is the meaning of the word *vocation*?

- List the children's responses on the board or on chart paper.
- Summarize the paragraph to introduce the Scripture story.

Scripture

Choose three children to stand and proclaim the parts of Jesus, Peter, and the narrator. Allow time for practice.

- After the reading, ask the children how they would have reacted if they had been among Jesus' disciples.
- Discuss how the disciples appear to be reacting in the painting.
- Have the children explain to a partner what Jesus wanted his disciples to understand when he washed their feet.

The Cost of Serving Others

Have the children silently read the text.

► Music Option: While the children read, play “Jesu, Jesu” or “Whatsoever You Do,” downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

• Emphasize that the service Jesus asks of his followers is not always easy or convenient. Servants of Jesus must be willing to take on humble tasks just as he was.

Your Vocation

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the three paragraphs.

- Tell the other children to listen for the different types of vocations.
- Ask them to name the four types of vocations they heard. **ordained priesthood, religious life, marriage, committed single life**

Activity

Have a volunteer read aloud the directions.

- Brainstorm some career choices with the children.
- Lead a discussion on the ways in which these careers might serve others.

Quick Review

Jesus modeled our call to love and serve God and others. Vocation is the purpose for which God made us and the way we answer his call.

Discover (2)

Objectives

- Recognize that Holy Orders confers a sacred authority and charism for serving the faithful by teaching, leading people in worship, and pastoral governing
- Describe consecrated life as a state of life lived in community and characterized by the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience

Living the Call

Ask: How do people live out their baptismal call?

- Discuss responses as a group.

Have the children silently read the text to find out who participates in the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

► Music Option: While the children read, play “Serving Each Other,” downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- Provide the group with the names of the bishop of the diocese, the priests, and the deacons who serve the parish.
- Review the roles of the bishop, priest, and deacon.

Consecrated Life

Read aloud the text.

- Involve the children in a discussion about what it means to live a consecrated life.

- Give the children examples of charisms they might have, such as love for animals, caring for those who are elderly, and respect for the environment.

The Evangelical Counsels

Explain to the children that members of religious communities profess the vows listed in this chart.

- Have three volunteers each read aloud one of the sacred promises.
- Tell the children that the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit help them to live out their own lives of service.
- Have them turn to page 318 in the Our Catholic Tradition section of the Student Book to review a list of both.

Summarize the paragraph at the bottom of the page.

★ Instruct the children to write the name of someone in ministry who has served them by helping them know more about Jesus.

Activity

Read aloud the directions.

- Provide the children with time to write about ways to live the vows.

Quick Review

The Sacrament of Holy Orders confers sacred power for service to the faithful; consecrated life requires choosing to live according to three vows, or sacred promises.

Catechist Tips: Students with Disabilities

Remind the children that all persons are capable of serving in some capacity. God does not refuse anyone the opportunity to serve because of physical or mental impairment.

- Service need not be physically demanding.
- Many Saints with physical challenges spent their lives in prayer and study.

Catechist Tips: Vocation

The Christian vocation is a summons from God to love and serve him. All those who are baptized share in the priesthood of the faithful—to love and worship God and to love and serve one's neighbor.

- The vocation of the laity is to love and serve God through engagement in social, family, and work pursuits, according to his will.
- The vocation of priests and religious is to love and serve God through service to the Church.

Catechist Tips: Ministry

The word *minister* comes from the Latin word *minister*, meaning “servant.” The term is also related to a second Latin word, *minor*, which means “smaller.”

- Clearly, then, the work of ministry is rightly deemed a call to service.
- Share with the children the information that Popes sometimes use the title “Servant of the Servants of God.”

Catechist Tips: Words in Context

Provide the children the context of the Scripture quotations.

- John 15:15—Jesus is commissioning his Apostles after washing their feet at the Last Supper.
- Mark 9:35—Jesus is responding to a quarrel about which disciple is the greatest.
- Matthew 25:35–36, 40—Jesus is sharing the parable of the Last Judgment. The king rewards those who serve.

Catechist Tips: The Call to Ministry

Have the children pay close attention to Saint Peter's exchange with Jesus in the Scripture on The Washing of the Disciples' Feet.

- **Ask: How was Peter changed?** (*Peter spent the rest of his life in service preaching the Gospel to others.*)
- **Ask: When were you of service? How did it feel to do that action? When someone does an act of service, how are both people changed?**
- Point out that Peter wasn't comfortable letting Jesus wash his feet, yet he stepped up to the challenge. Explain that we can also challenge ourselves to do more to be of service to others.
- Ask the children to tell Peter's story to their family and talk with them about ways they are already of service to others, and perhaps think of new ways.

Catechist Tips: Offer Solidarity

Help the children understand that Christian service is rooted in the principle of solidarity, recognizing that all people are equal as children of God.

- Ask the children to reflect on their opportunities to serve others and on the ways that others serve them.
- Remind them that service is an obligation of the Christian life.

Glossary Activity: Consecrated Religious Life

To expand their understanding of consecrated religious life, help the children locate the websites of different religious orders.

- Invite them to compare the orders. For example, the Jesuits are known for their work as educators; the Dominicans are called the Order of Preachers.
- Ask the children to note any special requirements of the orders.

Additional Activity: Career Choices

Encourage the children to look for advertisements that promote various careers.

- **Ask:** What rewards do the ads promise? What persuasive tactics do they use?
- Bring in the classified section of your newspaper, and have the children analyze the job descriptions and career opportunities.

Additional Activity: Community Service

Have the children research opportunities for community service by young people in your area.

- Help them use the Internet or telephone directories to identify local service organizations and programs that welcome young volunteers.

Additional Activity: Role-Play

Invite the children to work in small groups to act out their stories of service.

- Have group members choose which story they will dramatize.
- Allow time for groups to present their dramatizations.

Additional Activity: Creative Commercials

Supplies:

- paper
- pencils

Form pairs (or small groups) for children to work cooperatively. In this case, it may be helpful for them to work with people they are more comfortable with.

- Ask the children to imagine that they are the vocation directors for their diocese. It is their job to recruit young people to the priesthood and religious life.
- Have the children think of a creative way to present an ad for vocations. They may compose a jingle, sketch a newspaper front page, act out a radio or TV commercial, or come up with any other idea. Let the creative juices flow!
- Distribute paper and pencils to each group. Allow time for the children to develop their presentations and then have them share them with the group.

Additional Activity: Interviews

Before assigning this task, ask priests, deacons, seminarians, and members of religious communities who live or work in your parish or who are nearby, if they would be willing to be interviewed. Also have the names of seminaries and religious community houses that young people might contact for an interview. Alert parents to the assignment.

Suggest that the children interview a priest, seminarian, deacon or member of a religious community to find out:

- **What motivated them to choose the life of service?**
- **What do they like best about their ministry?**
- **What are the difficulties they face in their ministry?**

Suggest that they conduct the interviews in pairs or small groups. Give them a date to report back to the whole group with the information they have gathered.

Parish Video Connection: Holy Orders

To expand on the Sacrament of Holy Orders after you have completed the instruction on page 236, have the children watch this video and take notes on anything new or unusual they hear.

Ask: Were you surprised to hear that “all Catholics are priests”? What does that statement mean to you? What spiritual journeys do men take as they become ordained priests in the Catholic Church? How do men and women serve in the Church along with those who are ordained?

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/q904xlwxnSc>

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