

Called to be Leaven in the World

The vocation of the laity

Grades 9-12 Lesson 2

Goal: Students will recall that God's plan for their lives will lead to the greatest happiness and holiness. Students will name and describe the different vocations in the church. They will identify the characteristics of the vocation to marriage and the laity's mission of building up the Kingdom of God by their family and occupation in the midst of the world.

Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11-13

“For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope. When you call me, and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart.”

Catechism: YOUCAT # 138, 260

How is the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church structured? **In the Church there are the laity and clerics. As children of God, they are of equal dignity. They have equally important but different tasks. The mission of the laity is to direct the whole world toward the kingdom of God...** Every Christian has the duty to bear witness to the Gospel by his own life. But God walks a special path with each person. Some he sends as laymen, so that they might build up the kingdom of God by their family and occupation in the midst of the world. For this purpose, he bestows on them in Baptism and Confirmation all the necessary gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Why did God dispose man and woman for each other? **God disposed man and woman for each other so that they might “no longer be two but one’ (Mt. 19:6). In this way they are to live in love, be fruitful, and thus become a sign of God himself, who is nothing but overflowing love. (CCC 1601-1605)**

Lesson:

1. Watch ‘Plans’ video (1 min) to introduce today’s scripture.
2. Review yesterday’s lesson on four levels of happiness.
3. Holiness is the means to our greatest happiness. We are able to achieve the greatest holiness by embracing vocation God desires for us.
4. Watch *What is my vocation?* (6 mins) Then discuss the three senses of the term vocation that Father Schmitz describes. During this week we will focus on understanding the second sense of this term.
 - Your call to be a saint

- Your state in life (primary relationship that will lead you to holiness)
 - What you are called to do in the day-to-day
5. Most people in the Church are called to give themselves in love through marriage and family life. God calls these people to joyfully and enthusiastically live out their faith in the midst of their families, jobs, parishes and communities. By their witness, they build up God's Kingdom on earth.
 6. Watch *What is marriage? (7 mins)* by Chris Evert and discuss this view of marriage. *Discussion Questions: How does this view of marriage compare with how marriage is portrayed in the world around you (your family and friends, the media, etc.)? Is this Catholic understanding of marriage **attainable**? (Emphasize the power of grace in the sacrament of marriage.) What are the obstacles to living this ideal? Is this the kind of marriage you want?*
 7. View and discuss the additional videos and music to help students recognize that with God's grace, faithfulness and holiness in marriage is very possible.
 8. Homework: Write three paragraphs about a family you know (or one you've learned about) who is/was really living the true meaning of marriage and family. Which level of happiness were they pursuing? In what way were others around them affected by how this family embraced their vocation to love?
 9. Prayer: World Meeting of Families- Philadelphia (2015)

God and Father of us all,
 in Jesus, your Son and our Savior,
 you have made us your sons and daughters
 in the family of the Church.

May your grace and love
 help our families in every part of the world
 be united to one another in fidelity to the Gospel.

May the example of the Holy Family,
 with the aid of your Holy Spirit,
 guide all families, especially those most troubled,
 to be homes of communion and prayer
 and to always seek your truth and live in your love.
 Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

<http://www.worldmeeting2015.org/spirituality-center/prayers-devotions/>