

Called to be Leaven in the World

The vocation of the laity

Grades 6-8 Lesson 2

Goal: Students will recall that there are 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 1:5

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

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.

The Sacrament of Marriage: *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: “What Are You Looking For?” (2.5 min) We are all in search of answers to these ‘big questions.’ *Discussion Questions: According to the video, what is one thing that we all are looking for?*
Sample answers: Everyone ultimately seeks Love. We were made by and for Love. Happiness is the result of giving and receiving love.
2. 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.
3. Watch: Caffeinated Conversations with Jason and Crystalina Evert (10 mins) This beautiful young couple shares interesting stories of marriage and family.
4. Watch: St. Gianna Beretta Molla: (5 min) *Discussion Questions: How did Gianna’s faith shape her whole life- not just when she went to Mass on Sunday? Gianna and Pierre*

wanted to have a 'truly Christian family'. How do you think they did that? What did everyday holiness look like for Gianna? How was Gianna's ultimate choice to sacrifice her life for her youngest child flow from a whole life of selflessness?

Sample Answers: Gianna's faith permeated her whole life: work, family and charitable works. They had a Christian family by raising their children in the Faith, participating in the Sacraments, praying together and witnessing to their love for Jesus. Everyday holiness involved loving and serving Christ faithfully as she fulfilled her duties as a wife, mother and doctor. Her ultimate sacrifice was made possible by her many daily choices to love with Jesus' love.

5. Watch; Blessed Pierre Giorgio Frassati: (6 min)

Discussion Questions: Name some of the sacrifices Pierre Giorgio made to help those in need? How did Pierre Giorgio's daily receiving of the Eucharist influence His love for the poor? Why do you think Pierre Giorgio kept hidden his good deeds and his family background?

Sample Answers: See video for examples of sacrifices. Pierre Giorgio used to say that Jesus visited him every day when he received the Eucharist at Mass. Pierre Giorgio would then visit Jesus present in the poor. He kept his good deeds secret because he was humble and knew his family would not approve. He wanted to serve the poor for love of Jesus alone.

Optional activity: Paul John Paul II called Bld. Pierre Giorgio the "Man of the Beatitudes". Read the Beatitudes: Matthew 5:1-12 and discuss how Pierre Giorgio lived each of these.

6. Homework/ A Step Beyond: Today's Scripture passage was written for and about you. This evening, share this passage with at least one member of your family. Write a paragraph sharing some ways that you think God is calling you to live out your faith more fully in your family, at school and with your friends (sports, clubs, activities, etc.) How will these efforts help build up God's Kingdom?

7. Prayer:

St. Gianna:

God our Father we praise You and we bless you because in Saint Gianna Beretta Molla you have given us one who witnessed to the Gospel as a young woman, as a wife, as a mother, and as a doctor. We thank you because through the gift of her life we can learn to welcome and honor every human person.

You, Lord Jesus, were for Gianna a splendid example. She learned to recognize you in the beauty of nature. As she was questioning her choice of vocation she went in search of you and the best way to serve you. Through her married love she became a sign of your love for the Church and for humanity. Like you, the Good Samaritan, she cared for everyone who was sick, small or weak. Following your example, out of love she gave herself entirely, generating new life

Holy Spirit, Source of every perfection, give us wisdom, intelligence, and courage so that, following the example of Saint Gianna and through her intercession, we may know how to place ourselves at the service of each person we meet in our personal, family and professional lives, and thus grow in love and holiness. Amen.

<http://www.saintgianna.org/prayersofgianna.htm>

OR

Bld Pierre Giorgio:

O Father, you gave to the young Pier Giorgio Frassati
the joy of meeting Christ
and of living his faith in the service of the poor and the sick;
through his intercession may we, too, walk the path of the beatitudes
and follow the example of his generosity,
spreading the spirit of the Gospel in society.
Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

<http://www.frassatiusa.org/prayer-to-follow-pier-giorgio>