

Consecrated for Christ

Consecrated Life

Grades 9-12: Lesson 4

Goal: Students will recall that consecrated persons are called by Christ to follow Him more closely. Students will explain the vows and list some different forms of consecrated life in the Church.

Scripture: Isaiah 43:4

“...you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you.”

Catechism: YOUCAT # 145

*Why does Jesus want there to be Christians who live their whole lives in poverty, unmarried chastity and obedience? **God is love. He longs for our love also. One form of loving surrender to God is to live as Jesus did- poor, chaste, and obedient. Someone who lives in this way has head, heart, and hands free for God and neighbor. (CCC 914-933, 944-945)*** In every age individual Christians let themselves be completely taken over by Jesus, so that “for the sake of the kingdom of heaven” (Mt 19:12) they give everything away for God- even such wonderful gifts as their own property, self-determination, and married love. This life according to the evangelical counsels in poverty, chastity and obedience shows all Christians that the world is not everything. Only an encounter with the divine Bridegroom ‘face to face’ will ultimately make a person happy.

Lesson:

1. There are different forms of Consecrated Life in the Church (for more information: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/consecrated-life/forms-of-consecrated-life.cfm>)
 - a. Religious Life- which includes brothers, sisters, priests in religious orders, monks and nuns
 - b. societies of apostolic life
 - c. consecrated virgins
 - d. hermits
 - e. members of secular institutes

All of these forms of life include a radical following of Jesus’s own way of life through vows or promises of poverty, chastity and obedience.

2. To learn about women’s Religious Communities, watch: *For Love Alone* DVD (18 mins) Beautiful and engaging; showcases the stories of religious sisters from multiple communities from their first hearing of the call to their daily lives now. *Discussion questions: What elements were common to all the religious communities in this video? From this video, what do you think the ‘purpose’ of Religious Life is? Sample answers: Common elements include: a life of prayer, wearing a religious habit, living in community, service to God’s people, joy, etc. The purpose of Religious Life is the sanctification of the religious, the witness to God’s love and the salvation of souls.*

3. To learn about men's Religious Communities, watch:
 - a. Brother Andre Bassette- Reflection (6.5 min) or Blessed Andre Bassette (2 min)
 - b. Top Ten Friar Questions (9.5 min)
*From these videos, what did you learn about **how** and **why** religious live poverty, chastity and obedience? What are the similarities and differences between men's and women's religious communities?*
Sample answers: Religious live the vows poverty, chastity and obedience in order to share in the life that Jesus Himself chose to live. These vows enable men and women religious to be free to love God and neighbor with an undivided heart. Men and women religious have the same common elements listed in #2 above.

4. Compare and contrast the vocation to Religious Life with that of marriage and priesthood.
 - a. Similarities: all called to holiness, all called to receive and give love (spiritual vs physical motherhood/fatherhood), all require sacrifice and life-long commitment
 - b. Differences unique to Religious Life: Three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, live in community, common apostolate (ministry), wear a habit, etc.)

5. Homework/ A Step Beyond: Using today's Scripture verse, explain why you think a young woman or man would feel called to live Consecrated Life? What are other questions you have about Consecrated Life?

6. Prayer:

Prayer: To Know One's Vocation

Lord, my God and my loving Father,
 You have made me to know You, to love You, to serve You,
 and thereby to find and to fulfill myself.
 I know that You are in all things,
 and that every path can lead me to You.
 But of them all, there is one especially
 by which You want me to come to You.
 Since I will do what You want of me,
 I pray You, send your Holy Spirit to me: into my mind,
 to show me what You want of me; into my heart,
 to give me the determination to do it,
 and to do it with all my love, with all my mind,
 and with all my strength right to the end.
 Amen.

http://mpdinc.org:8080/MPD/_prayers.jsp