

Called to Spiritual Fatherhood

God's plan for priests

Grades K-2: Lesson 3

Goal: Students will describe how a man becomes a priest. They will list ways they help the Church as priests.

Scripture: Mark 1:16-20

“Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, were casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”

Catechism: YOUCAT # 249, 250

*What happens in Holy Orders? **The man who is ordained receives a gift of the Holy Spirit that gives him a sacred authority that is conferred upon him by Christ through the bishop. (CCC 1538)*** Being a priest does not mean just assuming an office or a ministry. Through Holy Orders a priest receives as a gift a definite power and a mission for his brothers and sisters in the faith.

How does the Church understand the sacrament of Holy Orders? A Catholic priest who administers the sacraments acts not on the basis of his own power or moral perfection, but rather “*in persona Christi*”. Through his ordination, the transforming, healing, saving power of Christ is grafted onto him. Because a priest has nothing of his own, he is above all a servant.

Lesson:

Opening Skit: Calling of Simon, Andrew, James and John

Read Matthew 4:18-22. Have children dress up as apostles and stage in Sea of Galilee as if they are fishing.

Instruction:

1. Discuss: What did it mean for Jesus to call them to be “fishers of men?” *We cannot fish men but we can bring them into the boat and teach them about Jesus.*
2. Song for priesthood (see below)
3. Ask the children if they remember any details about the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples. Discuss that at this occasion Jesus made the apostles His priests by giving them his body and blood and telling them to “Do this in memory of me.”
4. Last Supper: children act out Last Supper skit and re-tell the special gift of the Eucharist and Christ’s gift to the world.
Significance of Sacrament and ordination (laying of hands) “laying on of hands” activity
By the power of God, priest can turn bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus.
Jesus also gave the Apostles the power to forgive sins and bless sick people with oil so they can get better. Priests give their life to serve Jesus and his body the Church.
5. Activity:
Each child should receive a copy of the priest cutout. Remind the children that priests live to love and serve Jesus in a special way and to love, teach, and serve the people God gave

him. Remind the children that the Pope, bishops, and priests, especially their own parish priest, count on their prayers. We will pray especially for these priests as we color and glue our priest with vestments. Priest Cut out: The Mass Explained Priest Vestments for Mass <http://www.massexplained.com/kids-mass-crafts-3/>

Song for the Priesthood:

Tune: Mary had a little lamb

Jesus called his chosen twelve, chosen twelve, chosen twelve
Jesus called his chosen twelve, after praying
God made them his priests to love, priest to love, priests to love
Priests serve God and all His Church for his glory.
Pray that more will hear his call, hear his call, hear his call
Pray that more will give their life for dear Jesus.

Homework/A Step Beyond: Pray the rosary or a special family prayer for your parish priest. Ask your parents if you can make a special card or kind gift for your pastor or Bishop as a sign of gratitude and promised prayers.

Prayer: “Dear Jesus you love me so much. Thank you for all the priests that bring your life to me. Please help them to love you with their whole hearts. Help me to know what my vocation is. I love you.”