

# Consecrated for Christ

## *Consecrated Life*

### Grades 3-5: Lesson 4

**Goal:** *Students will explain that Religious belong to Jesus in a special way. Explain that consecrated persons are called by Christ to follow him more closely. Students will list and explain the vows.*

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 31:3

“I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I am constant in my affection for you.”

**Catechism:** (CCC [916, 925 - 926, 944](#))

Being a Religious Brother or a Religious Sisters is one way of experiencing a very close relationship to Jesus. This close relationship began at Baptism where the person was totally dedicated to God. A man or a woman proposes to follow Jesus more closely, to continue to give himself / herself to Him in the service of the neighbor, all this to witness to the glory of God’s Kingdom.

Religious life was born in the East during the first centuries of Christianity. What stands out about consecrated life is its special character of liturgical practice - attendance at daily Mass, public profession of the evangelical counsels, community life, and witness given to the union of Christ with the Church.

Religious life is a gift received from the Lord to the people of God a gift he or she offers in a stable way of life. Therefore, the Church can acknowledge herself to be the Savior’s bride. Religious life in its various forms (different communities with different Apostolates) is called to symbolize the charity /love of God in the language of our time.

Already destined for him or her through Baptism, the person who surrenders himself or herself to the God he or she loves above all else thereby, consecrates himself / herself more intimately to God’s service and to the good of the whole Church.

#### **Lesson:**

1. *Does anyone know a Religious Brother or a Sister? What is their life like? Let’s take a closer look.*
2. **Vocabulary:**
  - a. **Consecration / dedication:** setting aside as someone special with a special mission/calling
  - b. **liturgical practice:** attending Mass daily, Adoration, Divine Office, times of personal and community prayers
  - c. **Apostolates:** different ways of serving, for example, hospitals, schools, retreat centers, Religious Education, care for the poor
  - d. **stable way of life:** a brother will live with a group of other brothers and a sister will live with a group of other sisters and wear a distinctive outfit / dress called a Habit
  - e. **Evangelical Counsels –**
    - \* *Poverty* – person exchanges the right to own anything, for example, a car, a watch,

in order to be free of attachments, to be dependent on God to provide for his/her needs

\* *Chastity* – person exchanges the right to marry a spouse (husband or wife) to be espoused to Jesus and His Church; to be available for the service of God’s people

\* *Obedience* – person exchanges the right to be independent for God’s will to be expressed through superiors who will determine how and where a brother or sister will serve with his / her particular talents.

3. **Scripture Read Jeremiah 31:3** “I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I am constant in my affection for you.”

4. **Instruction**

a. *Discussion: Has anyone met a Brother or a Sister before? If not, has anyone ever watch the Sound of Music? (You may want to ask this ahead of time and have some video clips to show them of consecrated religious in case none of them have ever seen one) What were your thoughts as you watch the Sisters? Do you really think real Sisters act that way?*

b. *Introduce the vocabulary and place it in a visible place to refer back to the definitions.*

c. *We are going to watch a portion of a documentary where Sisters talk about becoming Religious Sisters, **Light of Love**. (Preview the video ahead of time to select clips.) Why did these Sisters become Sisters? What makes them live this vocation?*

d. *Now let us watch and find out what is a Religious Brother? **Top Ten Friar Questions** (10 mins.) Do you have other questions? What stood out for you as interesting?*

e. *Now we will watch **For Love Alone** (18 mins.) Why is it that the women do not seem to miss owning things (a car), being married and having their own children, and do what others direct them to do?*

f. *Now is the boys turn, **What is a Religious Brother?** (12 mins.) What is the focus of their lives? Where do they receive their spiritual strength to carry out the work our Lord has given them to do?*

g. *Why do the communities wear different Habits. We will work on an activity to learn about Religious Habits. **Holy Habits – Paper Doll** (have these printed ahead of time)*

h. *For the Brothers also called Friars, there is a photo of three different kinds wearing their habits. **Photo of three Friars***

5. **Evaluation:** *How are both Brothers and Sisters the same and how are they alike?*

*(Draw a Venn diagram on the board for the visual.) Do they both live the three vows of Poverty, Obedience, and Chastity in the same way?*

6. **Homework/ A Step Beyond:** *Tonight write a short prayer from your heart. Ask our Lord which vocation He is calling you to. Ask Him to help you live your life in preparing to say YES when the time comes to live that vocation. These prayers will then*

be placed at the prayer table in the classroom.

## 7. Close with prayer.

Father,  
You have made me and called me by name.  
I know by my baptism I share a role in  
proclaiming the Gospel to the world.  
Help me to know the vocation You have for me.  
I believe Your plan for me is better than anything I could imagine.  
Teach me what You want of me and  
Give me the courage to say yes when You call.  
Father, we lift up the world and ask for holy men and women to follow Your will as priests,  
brothers, sisters, and faithful married and single people.  
St. Joseph and Mary, our Mother, pray for us. Amen.

(Prayer is taken from **Look to Him and be Radiant.**)

### **Resources for Religious Sisters:**

**Look to Him and be Radiant** - Praying hands for vocations

<http://looktohimandberadiant.blogspot.com/2013/06/vocations-part-three-my-hands-can-serve.html>

### **Holy Habits – Paper Doll**

<http://mith.ru/treasury/paper/pers08.htm>

### **Videos:**

CMSWR website – to obtain **For Love Alone** DVD and watch trailer

<http://cmswr.org/religious-life/for-love-alone>

CMSWR website – scroll down to the last video “Apostle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus” It is a **song with photos of different communities** of Sisters doing different things. (2 mins.)

<http://cmswr.org/vocations/videos>

**Light of Love** – Imagine Sisters (1 hr. 6 mins.)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIwJacw\\_Z3Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIwJacw_Z3Y)

**Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament: Vocations** (6 mins.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMCJGVWDNQQ>

### **Resources for Religious Brothers:**

**Top Ten Friar Questions** (10 mins.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=feZWE6sOm20>

**Website for Franciscan Brothers:** One shares the story of explaining the three Vows to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade CCD students. (This is to read.)

<http://franciscan.org/who-we-are/friar-voices-blog/kids-say-the-darndest-things>

**What is a Religious Brother?** (12 mins. about the Patrician Brothers in Australia, but also contains general information about Religious Brothers)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBb1hcsmhd0>

**Photo of three Friars:** Franciscan, Dominican, and Carmelite

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/paullew/2858999457/in/photostream/>