



NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

January 10-16, 2010

FAMILY TAKE-HOME PAGE

Dear Parent/s,

This is *National Vocation Awareness Week*. This *family page* has suggestions for how you may celebrate this week at home. These activities can be done at anytime during the year. We hope you will find these suggestions helpful as you create an environment that fosters family life, rooted in your Catholic Christian faith and joins with the Church in praying for vocations. *God bless you and your family.*

Prayer Service

Preparations: bowl of water, candle(s), Bible

Leader: We are gathered to celebrate God's call to us in baptism. To remind us that we are loved by God we bless ourselves with water.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
(Everyone dips into the bowl of water and makes the sign of the cross.)

Reading: Luke 3:21-22

Prayers of Thanksgiving: *Leader invites people to offer prayers of thanksgiving.*

Prayer: *Pray the vocation prayer or invite group to pray the Our Father and/or a spontaneous prayer.*

Candle lighting: *Pass the one candle around the group, or provide a candle for each person.*

Leader: Through our baptism we are the beloved of God and are called to let our light shine. As a sign of our willingness to share our light, let us light our candle/s and sing (or choose another appropriate song):

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Pray

- Set aside time each week/month to pray together as a family. Continue to share about God's call. Take turns leading the session.
- Create a family vocation prayer and pray it regularly.
- Look up the baptism date of each family member. Celebrate it as a family. Light a candle (if you have the candle from the actual baptism, light that one.) Share pictures/video and memories of the baptism. Talk about what baptism means. Pray the Apostles' Creed or rosary together. Parents may want to give a special gift of religious significance on the anniversary of a child's baptism.

Resolutions / Goals

Many people set goals/resolutions for a new year. As a family talk about your hopes for the new year as you seek to follow Jesus. Create a family quilt/chain with your ideas.

You will need: 1) squares/colored paper (3"x 3"/1" x 8", cloth/paper, different colors); 2) yarn, needle and thread, paper clips, glue/tape; 3) crayons, markers, or fabric pens.

Process: a) distribute the squares/paper; b) write down a hope on the square/paper and decorate (some may be blank or decorated with no words); c) join together. Display and act on your hopes. Revisit them regularly.

Visits

- Invite a parish priest, sister, brother, or deacon to your home for a meal, prayer, conversation. Ask them to share their vocation story.
- Visit a seminary, motherhouse, monastery. Meet and talk with someone who has chosen religious life or priesthood as his/her vocation. Do a virtual visit on the web.
- Go to your local vocation office and get information about religious vocations and events that may be going on in the diocese. Try to attend at least one event this year.
- Check with local seminary or motherhouse to see what is available for your children to participate in. They may sponsor a youth summer camp, etc.

Play

- Watch TV programs, DVDs and talk about where God was/wasn't. You may wish to add "If I were in this . . . I would. . ."
- Create a game, word search or scramble with these words. Add other words. First talk about what they mean.

Baptism	Brother	Deacon	Disciple	Marriage	Call
Mission	Priest	Single Life	Sister	Vocation	Vows

- Play charades or Pictionary with Bible stories. e.g. The baptism of Jesus, Jesus walks on water, Mary is asked to be the Mother of God (the Annunciation), Jesus heals a blind man, The Last Supper, The woman at the well, etc.