

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks Jesus' initiation into public ministry. At his baptism Jesus is named the Beloved Son of God. With this celebration we recommit ourselves to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Initiated through our baptism we too are commissioned to proclaim Good News with our lives.

The observance of *National Vocation Awareness Week (NVAW)* began in 1976 when the National Conference of Catholic Bishops designated the 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the year as the beginning of *NVAW*. In 1997 this celebration was moved to coincide with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

NCCV promotes all Catholic Church vocations. This NVAW kit is designed to assist preachers, teachers, catechists, and other ministers. By fostering a culture of vocations, the Church is strengthened in its universal call to holiness. May this resource meet your particular needs and enhance your local celebration.



## NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

January 10-16, 2010

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### PLANNING KIT

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### HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)

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#### **Scripture for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

#### **CYCLE C**

- Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
- Psalm 29:1-4, 9-10
- Acts 10:34-38
- Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

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- Activities

## HIGH SCHOOL LESSON PLANS

### *Baptized in the Spirit*

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#### **LESSON ONE** *Listening to the Spirit*

**Objective:** To help students listen to the Spirit as they realize their gifts and how to share their gifts with others.

**Preparation:** Arrange chairs in a circle. Place a piece of fabric, candle, bible, and an image of Jesus (3 if possible) in the center. Duplicate Activity 1.

**Process:** Introduce the lesson by talking about what it means to be baptized in the Spirit. Focus on the importance of listening to the Spirit who enables us to know ourselves and gives us the power to do good. Invite students to listen to the Spirit through a guided reflection. Play instrumental music softly. Suggest: "Sit in a comfortable position, eyes closed, breathe deeply several times. As I read a passage from Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7, listen for a word or a phrase that stands out for you. Listen from that place deep within yourself. In that place of your heart, speak with God who is calling you by name and inviting you to be one with him." Read from Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7. *Pause.* Read aloud: "Was there a word that stood out for you?" *Pause.* Continue aloud: "Isaiah said: 'You are my chosen one; with whom I am pleased; I have called you; I have grasped you by the hand.' *Pause.* "Each of us is called by God at baptism and gifted with the Spirit. We are called into Christ and as Christians we are to share our Christ-likeness, our gifts, with others. What gifts has God given to you?" *Pause.* "Name them." *Pause.* "Give thanks for these gifts." *Pause.* "Gradually open your eyes and let us conclude our prayer by saying the Our Father together." Discuss the importance of listening to the Spirit working in us. Relate this passage to Jesus' mission and how baptism in the Spirit empowered him. Lead into the activity, explaining that the Spirit works through us with our gifts and experiences. Distribute Activity 1. Ask students to choose a classmate for an interview and complete the activity.

#### **LESSON TWO** *You Could Make a Difference*

**Objective:** To expose students to the many ways apostolic religious and diocesan priests serve the Church and our world.

**Preparation:** Duplicate Activity 2. Assemble materials on saints and those who are moved by the Spirit to give witness to the Gospel.

**Process:** Open with reflection on the experience of the interviews. Ask: "How can knowledge of our gifts help us follow Jesus?" Discuss how our gifts can be used in service to others. Christian service is called 'ministry.' Talk about the variety of ministries that priests, brothers and sisters do today. (educators, pastoral ministers, social workers, nurses, doctors, lawyers, administrators, etc.) Show DVD *You Could Make a Difference* (available at [www.nccv-vocations.org](http://www.nccv-vocations.org)), provide stories from *Vision Magazine* (free hard copies 800-942-2811/[VocationGuide.org](http://VocationGuide.org) or look online for other sources) or invite speakers to come share their vocation stories. Open general discussion: What inspired the people to share their gifts? Why did they enjoy working with others in their joys and sufferings? Did you learn anything new? Any surprises? Any questions? Distribute Activity 2. Allow about 15 minutes for students to work in small groups to bring a statement in response to the two questions to share with large group. Ask groups to share responses. End by inviting the groups to share their vocation prayers.

## ACTIVITY 1

**Interviewer** \_\_\_\_\_ **Interviewee** \_\_\_\_\_

*Write down the responses from the person whom you interviewed and then, on a separate sheet, write a short article that describes this person.*

1. What background information is important for me to know about you?
2. When you are not in school what do you enjoy doing?
3. What do you want most in life?
4. Name at least 5 gifts/talents you realize about yourself.
5. Try to picture yourself seven years from now. Describe what you hope you will be and what you will be doing with your life.

## ACTIVITY 2

*Work in small groups and write a group statement to each question. These will be shared in the large group. (15 minutes)*

1. In what practical ways can we walk the path of justice and peace in solidarity with the poor? Give specific examples of the ways you or people you know have walked in solidarity with the poor.

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2. How can the poor help us to discover our GIFTS and strengths?

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3. Compose a short vocation prayer that reflects your discussion.

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