

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 5 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 15 ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

Objectives

- Give examples of God's call to use one's gifts to serve others.
- Explore lay and ordained states of life in the Church.
- Recognize the vocations of service.
- Identify Matrimony and Holy Orders as Sacraments of Service.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), pages 112–113

Help your child list some of the needs and problems of our community and our world. (for example: homelessness, poverty, loneliness, violence, drugs) Then pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 112.

Read page 112 and the first paragraph of page 113. Use the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to help your child understand the term *vocation*. In what ways do you think God is calling you right now to serve others at home? In your parish? In school?

Refer to the **Activity** on page 112. Ask: What gifts or talents do the young people in the photos have? (musical, athletic) Discuss with your child the gifts and talents he or she possesses. Ask: How could you use your gifts and talents to serve God and others?

Read **Catholics Believe**, the **Scripture Story: The Harvest**, and the **Scripture Signpost**; answer the questions above the picture on page 113. (The field ready for harvesting is a sign of the people in need of leadership and help. Be creative in suggesting contemporary images, for example: a computer help line filled with e-mail messages.)

Step 2: *We Explore* (Doctrine), pages 114–117

Together with your child read **Vocations of Service** and **Catholics Believe** on page 114 and explain that some Christians answer God's call through the Sacrament of Matrimony and others through the Sacrament of Holy Orders. *All* Christians, however, are called in Baptism to serve others. Check the definitions of the highlighted terms *lay*, *ordained*, and

contemplative by looking in the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook. Have your child answer the question above the picture. Point out to your child that all Christians are called to serve God by virtue of their Baptism.

As you read **Promises**, page 115, help your child understand the highlighted terms *vow*, *celibacy*, and *evangelical counsels* by looking in the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook. When you are discussing the last paragraph of the text, make sure your child grasps the basic meanings of *poverty*, *chastity*, and *obedience* as they are expressed in religious vows. The vow of *poverty* commits a person to share work and material resources in community, the vow of *chastity* is an invitation to live one's life as a consecrated celibate for the sake of the kingdom of God, and the vow of *obedience* commits a person to grow according to God's will through a community's charism and corporate mission.

Read **Our Moral Guide** and answer the question. (No matter what our calling in life, people need to rely on us.) Talk with your child about ways to remain faithful to our baptismal call. If time permits, do the **Activity** on page 115.

Read **Many Ways to Answer**, the caption, **Saints Walk with Us: Saint Margaret of Scotland**, and **Landmark**. Ask: How would you compare the medieval monks' service to God with Sister Paula's ministry of today? (They are all following a call to serve God, each in his or her own way and circumstances.)

Use the chart on page 117 to discuss the Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders. Using your family Bible read the Scripture passages listed for each sacrament. Ask: Why do you think there is an exchange of promises at weddings? (Help your child understand that the essential part of a wedding is the solemn promises, the "wedding vows," that the bride and groom make, committing themselves to each other for life.) Then ask: What does the gesture of laying on of hands symbolize in the Sacrament of Holy Orders? (calling the Holy Spirit to be present; blessing or consecrating; transferring authority/power)

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Daily Life), page 118

Review material taught in this lesson by discussing **Recall**, **Think and Share**, and **Continue the Journey**.

Read **We Live Our Faith: At Home and In the Parish**. Try to follow through on the suggestions found there.

Refer to the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook for clarification and review of all highlighted words.

Complete the **Unit Four Review** found in your textbook on pages 120–121.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 29–30.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 119

Read **Our Daily Prayer** on page 119. Help your child understand that the Liturgy of the Hours is the prayer of the Church. Many parishes pray the Liturgy of the Hours (also called Morning Praise and/or Vespers). Check your parish bulletin to see if your faith community prays the Liturgy of the Hours and, if possible, participate in one of these prayer experiences.

Pray the closing **Prayer** with your child.