

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 6 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 22 CALLED TO SERVE

Objectives

- Explore aids to answering God's call to service.
- Explain the priesthood of the faithful.
- Realize that Jesus' model of teaching involves serving others.
- Explore ways to serve the Church.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), pages 164–165

Invite your child to recall the very first occupations he or she thought of choosing and to explain why the occupations attracted him or her. (Example: I wanted to be a firefighter because I was fascinated with my toy fire engine.)

Tell your child that in this chapter he or she will explore ways to answer God's call to service; note the chapter title: **Called to Serve**. Then pray together the opening **Prayer**.

Read the text on page 164 and have your child focus on Father Bob's journey of faith. Ask: What experience in Father Bob's life led him to consider the priesthood? (His family had a good sense of Church; priests were family friends; his teacher and pastor suggested the priesthood.)

Provide art materials for your child to do the **Activity**.

Have your child note the priest with the young people in the photograph. Invite your child to discuss those people who are or have been influences in their life. Ask your child if there are any clergy or religious (sisters or brothers) he or she admires. Encourage your child to discuss the gifts and talents these people possess.

Use the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to help your child understand the highlighted term *ordained*.

Continue reading the text on page 165 and have your child find out how Father Bob decided on becoming a priest. Ask: What did he do to discern God's call to service? (He considered how best to use his gifts, and he prayed often.)

Point out that a seminary is a place of academic study and ministerial training. Ask: Where does Father Bob find the presence of Jesus Christ in the Mass? (Bread and Wine, people gathered, Scripture proclaimed, himself as presider)

Read **Scripture Signpost** and remind your child that every member of the Church is called to be a missionary. Then discuss your child's answer to the question posed there.

Have your child note the priest preaching in the assembly. Recall the passage from Romans in Scripture Signpost. Point out that bishops, priests, and deacons imitate Jesus and serve the people of God by preaching, or breaking open God's word. Read aloud the caption and invite responses. (Explore the many ways we meet Jesus in one another.)

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 166–169

Recall that we can see Christ in the Eucharist, in each other, in Scripture, and in priests.

Call your child's attention to the images of Christ's priesthood in the photograph on page 166, and have your child write two or three sentences about each. (priest, assembly, the Eucharist) Read the caption, and have your child recall how Father Bob saw Christ in Mass.

Read **Sharing in the Priesthood** and ask your child: How can we share in the priesthood of Jesus? (by celebrating the sacraments and living our lives for God and others)

Read **Catholics Believe** and explain that through the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, we become full members of the priesthood of the faithful. Through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, men are ordained bishops and priests and become members of the ordained priesthood. They enter into a life of service to others. Holy Orders forever changes a man's relationship to Christ and the Church. Point out that while each type of priesthood—priesthood of the faithful or ordained priesthood—is a sharing in the priesthood of Christ, ordained ministry is unique and distinct.

Read **Scripture Story: Jesus Teaches Us to Serve** on page 167. Ask: What lesson is Jesus teaching his disciples? (To be his faithful followers, we must all serve one another.) Remind your child that we relive this story every year during the Holy Thursday liturgy. Invite your child to share his or her experience of foot washing, as either a participant or an observer.

Have your child note that in the drawing on page 167, Jesus is kneeling. Point out to him or her that during Jesus' time water was provided for visitors to wash the dust from their feet. A host would never wash the feet of a visitor. Direct your child's attention to Peter's gesture of shock and confusion. Point out that his bewilderment was because he did not understand the symbolism of Jesus' action.

After reading the caption question, invite your child to respond. (Because Jesus was their master and teacher; he wanted to show them that no matter who we are or what our position, we all must serve and care for one another.)

Read **Many Ways to Serve** on page 168 and turn to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to help clarify the highlighted terms. Remind your child that God calls some to Holy Orders, others to consecrated life, and still others to a married or single life. Point out that it is up to the individual to identify and accept God's call.

Have your child read **Saints Walk with Us: Saint John Neumann** and point out that Saint John Neumann imitated Christ by spreading the good news and defending people who were vulnerable. In his day immigrants and Catholics were two of the most vulnerable groups in North American society; influential groups tried to prevent them from attaining public office.

Call your child's attention to the picture of the priest and the two sisters. Explain that in the past bishops, priests, deacons, and members of the religious communities were set apart by their clothing. For many of them this is no longer the case.

Have your child complete the **Activity** on page 168.

Have your child read **Signs of Service** on page 169 to find out how bishops, priests, and deacons receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Point out to the students that a man who feels called to ordained ministry humbly places his desire to live out this call before the Church, which decides whether the Sacrament of Holy Orders should be conferred upon him. Ask: What five steps are present at the ordinations of a bishop, priest, or deacon? (presentation and election, instruction about responsibilities, questions, laying on of hands, reception of symbols)

As your child looks at the photograph of the paten and chalice, explain that the word *paten* comes from a Latin word meaning "shallow dish."

Point out the photograph of the bishop's symbols in **Symbols of Ordination**. Ask: Why is the crozier (КРОН•zhur) a good symbol for the bishop, the shepherd of the faithful? (because it looks like a shepherd's staff)

Have your child note the deacon receiving the Book of the Gospels. Ask: How does the deacon proclaim the good news? (by proclaiming Scripture at the Eucharistic celebration, by his preaching, by his charitable actions)

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 170

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

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

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

Complete pages 43–44 in your **Faith Journal**.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 171

Draw attention to the background photograph on page 171, the vineyard heavy with fruit. Ask your child to imagine all the uses for this fruit. Then ask him or her to imagine the unused fruit left hanging. Point out that leaving our gifts unused is just as wasteful, when they could be put to so many good uses answering God’s call to service.

Ask your child to point out the gifts being used in the other photographs. Have him or her brainstorm different ways to use these same gifts. (Example: A teacher may do missionary work or train people who lack work skills so that they can find jobs.)

Read **Hearing God’s Call**. Remind your child that the best time to listen for God’s call to serve is in prayer. Encourage him or her to spend a few minutes each day in prayer, listening.

Explain that God will help each of us to answer the call to service. Pray together the closing **Prayer** asking God to help us know through which vocation we are called to serve others.