

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 28th 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.

Proclaim Good News



National Vocation Awareness Week
January 11-17, 2009

►► **Planning Kit**

Intermediate (4-6)

Scripture for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

✦ **Cycle B**

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or Isaiah 55:1-11
Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4; 3:9-10
Acts 10:34-38 or 1John 5:1-9
Mark 1:7-11

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- Lesson Plans
- Activities

Intermediate Lesson Plans

Proclaim Good News

◀ Lesson One *Sharing Good News*

Objective: To help students grow in awareness of good news and to encourage students to spread the good news.

Preparation: Run off *Activity 1*. Students will need crayons, markers, or colored pencils.

Process: Introduce the lesson by talking about how the news we hear or read about is more often “bad news” rather than “good news.” Invite students to take a moment to reflect on some good news in their lives or that they have heard about from others. Ask a few students to share. Discuss how good news affects us. Ask: “Why is it important to share and hear good news?” (Makes people feel good, brings happiness and peace, we become more aware of goodness so gratitude increases, inspires others to share and do good deeds) Talk about the concepts of “random acts of kindness” and “pay it forward.” Read Acts 10:34–38. Ask: “What were the good works Jesus did?” Invite answers. “Jesus is living today in us. He does good works through us. By doing good deeds and sharing good news, the reign of God is strengthened. What good works have you seen at our school? What can we do to encourage good works?” Distribute *Activity 1*. Review instructions. Allow about 15 minutes and conclude by asking students to share their bumper stickers.

◀ Lesson Two *Proclaiming Good News*

Objective: To motivate students to follow those who are role models for proclaiming the Good News of Jesus.

Preparation: Run off *Activity 2*. Provide books with stories about saints and people who have proclaimed the Good News with their lives. Use the internet, saint books, materials from NCCV (e.g. *Witness to the Gospel* bookmarks & saint bookmarks.)

Process: Explain that by our baptism we are called by God to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. We are called to proclaim the “Good News” (the gospel of Jesus) with our lives. There are many people who have proclaimed the Good News and we call them saints. Some of the saints are in heaven and some are still living here on earth. Saints are called by God to do a special mission. . . some are married, some are single, others are priests, sisters, and brothers. Ask students to name a few saints. Invite them to also name people they admire from their family, parish, neighborhood, and in the world. Divide the class into groups of 4–5. Distribute *Activity 2*. Review directions. Allow 10–15 minutes for group work. Invite each group to do a creative presentation of the person they picked for the class. Each group ends with a prayer. Invite priest, sister or brother to talk to the class about their choice to follow Jesus and how they proclaim “Good News.”