

**Lesson 17**  
**Leader's Notes**

## Overview

The purpose of this lesson is to instill an understanding of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. In addition, students will be offered an opportunity to learn a bit more about the process of discerning a vocation to the priesthood, religious life, married life, or single life.

Oftentimes teens have a “knee jerk” reaction to considering whether God might be calling them to serve him in the Church. They simply cannot imagine a satisfying, fulfilling life without the benefits of marriage, and they do not stop to consider that all vocations have both a crown and a cross, both benefits and sacrifices. This lesson will encourage them to consider this.

### Objectives of this Lesson

1. ***All of us share the fundamental vocation of love.*** Most people live out that call through the vocation of marriage. Others are called to the priesthood or religious life, where—like married couples—they will witness to God’s love. Those with religious vocations make a gift of themselves to the Church and to the whole world with “undivided heart” (see CCC 1579, 2392; 1 Corinthians 7:32).
2. ***Christ established the priesthood to share in his ministry for the Church.*** The ordained priest has received an indelible mark on his soul and becomes a living icon of Christ, living *in persona Christi* and bringing the light of Christ to the world (see 1563–1566).
3. ***Through their celibacy, priests and religious sacrifice one good for an even greater good:*** to reflect *in their bodies* our destiny in heaven, where we will be “neither married nor given in marriage” (Matthew 22:30; CCC 1579–1580).
4. ***God calls us all to various vocations.*** Both men and women must learn to listen to God and to ask him for the desire to follow his plan for their lives. In *vocational discernment*, we prayerfully consider our own gifts and what we sense God is asking of us—with the help of those who have made similar choices—to determine the state of life to which God is calling us.