
LEADER OVERVIEW

A vocation is a call from God to a distinctive state of life by which each person is made holy. There are vocations to Holy Orders, married life, or consecrated life. Each vocation has its own specific role and place within the Church and culture, and one is not more important than another.

The men who are called to Holy Orders live their lives in service to the Church as priests and deacons. Those who are called to marriage live their lives in service to God through their marriage, family life, and education of their children. There are also those who are called to consecrated life who live their lives in service to the Church and the community — this may be the least well known vocation among youth.

Consecrated life is defined by those who, outside of Holy Orders, enter into a permanent state of life professing and living out chastity (celibacy), poverty, and obedience. There are various ways to live out consecrated life. There are hermits who live in extreme solitude and poverty and spend their lives continually praising God and praying for the salvation of the world. Consecrated virgins or widows seek a greater unity with Christ and make commitments to prayer, penance, service of others, and helping the Church. They can live in the world or form associations to better live out their commitments. Then there is religious life which is lived out by both men and women as a form of consecrated life lived out in communities instituted by the Church — this is most likely the form of consecrated life most youth are familiar with. Different communities have different rules of life. (CCC 914-929)

God has a specific vocation and calling for everyone. It is important to make the youth aware of not only all of the options available to them, but also how to begin to listen to God's call for their life and follow His direction toward a vocation.

EDGE NIGHT OVERVIEW

GOAL

The goal of this Edge Night is for the youth to come to an understanding of different vocations and what it looks like to live out each vocation.

SUMMARY

The Edge Night begins with a Gather where the youth learn more about Sts. Louis and Zélie Martin and do an activity where they are quizzed to see how well they know their local religious. During the Proclaim, the youth learn about the different types of vocations and more detail about the lesser known vocation to consecrated life. The Break gives the youth an opportunity to hear from a panel of people in different vocations and offers them an opportunity to ask the panel members questions. During the Send, the youth have a brief small group discussion to reflect on what they learned about vocations and pray over the different members of the panel.

MAIN IDEAS

- We are called by God to achieve holiness through a specific state of life, or vocation.
- Consecrated life is when a man or a woman makes a permanent decision to live a life of poverty, chastity (celibacy), and obedience. (CCC 914-915)
- Your vocation is a part of the grand plan God has for your life; a plan that will bring you the greatest happiness. (Jeremiah 29:11)

ENVIRONMENT

Put up the symbol for oxygen from the periodic table around the room. At the front of the room put up the elemental makeup of flames — carbon dioxide, water vapor, oxygen, and nitrogen.



MEDIA

Life Teen Inc: "A Day in the Life of a Priest" (youtube.com)



SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 29:11; John 10:10



CATECHISM

914-929

EDGE NIGHT OUTLINE

GATHER

Edge Night Introduction (5 min)

Welcome the youth and introduce any youth who are there for the first time. Give a brief overview of the topic of the Edge Night using the following as an example:

Oxygen is essential for us to live. Oxygen is also an essential component of fire; without oxygen fire cannot continue to burn. In the same way when it comes to our holiness, our vocation, or state of life, is essential for us to become holy. Just like oxygen is a part of a flame, vocations are a part of seeking holiness and living our lives in the Holy Spirit, following the will of God.

Begin in prayer by using the *Come Holy Spirit* projection found on the *August 2018 Edge USB* and online at lifeteen.com under Edge Support: *August 2018* for the youth to follow along.

Sts. Louis and Zélie Martin (5 min)

Use the following information to share three fun facts about Sts. Louis and Zélie Martin and the work they did to teach others about the Holy Spirit.

Fun Facts

1. Zélie was a lacemaker and Martin was a watchmaker. They got married after only three months of being together.
2. They had nine children. Four of the children died in infancy and the remaining five children were all girls who became nuns. One of their daughters was canonized a saint, St. Thérèse of Lisieux.
3. They are the first married couple to be canonized together as a couple. They were canonized in 2015 by Pope Francis.

Teaching on the Holy Spirit

While there are no formal teachings from these saints on the Holy Spirit, there is no doubt that the Holy Spirit was active in their daily lives. They lived out family life in simplicity, dedicated to God and prayer, and are incredible examples to many married couples today that holiness is possible in the day-to-day life of the family. The fruit of their life in the Spirit was their children, in particular St. Thérèse.

Guess Who (20 min)

Before the Edge Night, gather photos and fun facts from various people in different religious vocations around your diocese; this can include your parish priests, deacons, local bishops, and any local religious orders. Create a slideshow with their photos and, depending on how many fun facts you have, include questions about that person with four options (a,b,c,d) for youth to guess the correct answer.

This game is played in small groups.

1. Each small group is given one white board with a dry erase marker or a pad of paper with markers.
2. Project the first image in the slide show, and have the question and possible answers with the corresponding photo (or read the question with the possible answers to the youth).
3. Allow the small groups 30 seconds to discuss and guess what the correct answer is and then write their answer on the dry erase board or sheet of paper.
4. After the 30 seconds, invite the youth to hold up their answers. Any group that has the correct answer wins a small prize.
5. Repeat this process for the remaining people in the slideshow.

PROCLAIM

“Oxygen” Teaching (10 min)

This teaching can be found on pages 88 to 89.

BREAK

Vocations Q&A (30 min)

Invite as many people as possible from different vocations to come for a large Q&A session with the middle school youth. Before you invite the chosen individuals to come to the front of the room to answer questions, take a few minutes to allow the youth to write down a few of their questions about different vocations, depending on who will be there. Have Core Members go through the questions while you introduce the panel to the youth. Using the questions, host a Q&A session that allows everyone to get a deeper look into the many vocations in the Church.



SUGGESTIONS

If you are not able to get anyone to come for a live Q&A, consider having them answer questions via video that you can play during the Edge Night. Also consider contacting the vocations director at your diocese for more information on people who are regularly available to do things like this. If you are not able to do a Q&A in any form, consider playing the video “A Day in the Life of a Priest” from the *Media Suggestions*. Afterward, have a large group discussion with the youth about what surprised them about the life of a priest.



STEP IT UP

In Hispanic culture, the family is the predominant voice impacting a young person's decisions for their life, even their vocation. Consider inviting parents or primary caregivers of the youth to be part of the audience for the Q&A session so they can also gain knowledge about what it means to listen to God's voice in discernment of a holy vocation. Encourage them to pray for their youth's vocations, especially as the Church becomes increasingly Hispanic and needs more Hispanic priests and religious.

SEND

In Our Prayers (5 min)

At the end of the panel discussion, lead the youth in praying over the members of the panel. Ask the members for any specific prayer intentions and also pray for them as they continue to live out their vocation.



STEP IT UP

Create small handouts for each person the youth can pray for, similar to baseball cards, to give to the youth to bring home. Consider also including a few fun facts about that person or, if you are able to, include any specific prayer requests from that person.

Notes: _____

TEACHING GUIDE

GETTING STARTED

To cover the basic information, follow along and craft the talk based off of the bullet points. If your youth are ready to take it deeper, start incorporating a few of the Going Deeper call out boxes by picking the ones your youth would relate to the most.



GOING DEEPER

Check inside these boxes for tips and ideas on how to take your youth a little deeper with the Proclaim.

WHAT IS A VOCATION?

- Each and every one of us is called by God to be holy.
- We are called by God to achieve holiness through a specific state of life, or vocation.
- There are a few different states of life, or vocations. They are married life, consecrated life, or the priesthood or diaconate.
- *If you have already discerned your vocation and are living it out, share for two minutes about your vocation and how it helps you to be holier. If you are still discerning your vocation, share about your discernment process.*
- God created you with a particular vocation in mind. He has a specific way for you to live out your life that will bring you the greatest happiness and, with His grace, lead you to greater holiness.
- Each state of life is different and one is not better than the other. They all have their joys and their challenges.

CONSECRATED LIFE

- Most of you are going to be familiar with the vocation to the priesthood and the married life since those are the examples we see most often. But there is also another vocation which is less known: the vocation to consecrated life.
- Consecrated life is when a man or a woman makes a permanent decision to live a life of poverty, chastity (celibacy), and obedience. (CCC 914-915)
- Consecrated women and men seek greater unity with Christ and make commitments to prayer, penance, service of others, and the Church. (CCC 922-924)
- There are various ways to live out consecrated life and different options depending on where God is leading the person.
- Nuns take solemn vows and live more contemplative lives within a monastery. Sisters take simple vows and still live their lives within the community in active ministry.

- There are people who live consecrated life in extreme solitude and poverty, spending the entirety of their time praising God and praying for the salvation of the world — they are called hermits or monks. (CCC 920-921)
- Religious brothers also take vows and live in community together. Monks and brothers are not necessarily ordained priests.
- Both consecrated men and women can choose to live out their vocation to consecrated life in different religious communities. These communities usually have different rules of life, different charisms of the Holy Spirit, and different simple clothing that distinguishes them from one another. (CCC 925-929)
- *Share about any local religious orders and give a few facts about their rule of life.*

LISTENING FOR GOD’S CALL

- Each of you have a specific call for your life from God that will help you to be holier.
- Your vocation is a part of the grand plan God has for your life, a plan that will bring you the greatest happiness. (Jeremiah 29:11)
- It is important, even now, that you begin to listen to God’s voice and His calling in your life. It might not always be clear, but by being prayerful and attentive to God and continuing to seek Him, He will start to lay the path before you.



GOING DEEPER

Share some practical tools of discernment such as consistent prayer, learning about different vocations, or even talking to people in different vocations. Consider inviting your vocations director or parish priest to come for this segment of the talk. Be sure to incorporate the role of the Holy Spirit in discernment.

- The most important thing is to not be afraid. God would never ask you to do something that would not be good for you. He desires your happiness, holiness, and salvation.
- Do not be afraid of the greatness He may be calling you to, even if it is countercultural or may not make sense to the rest of the world.

Notes: _____
