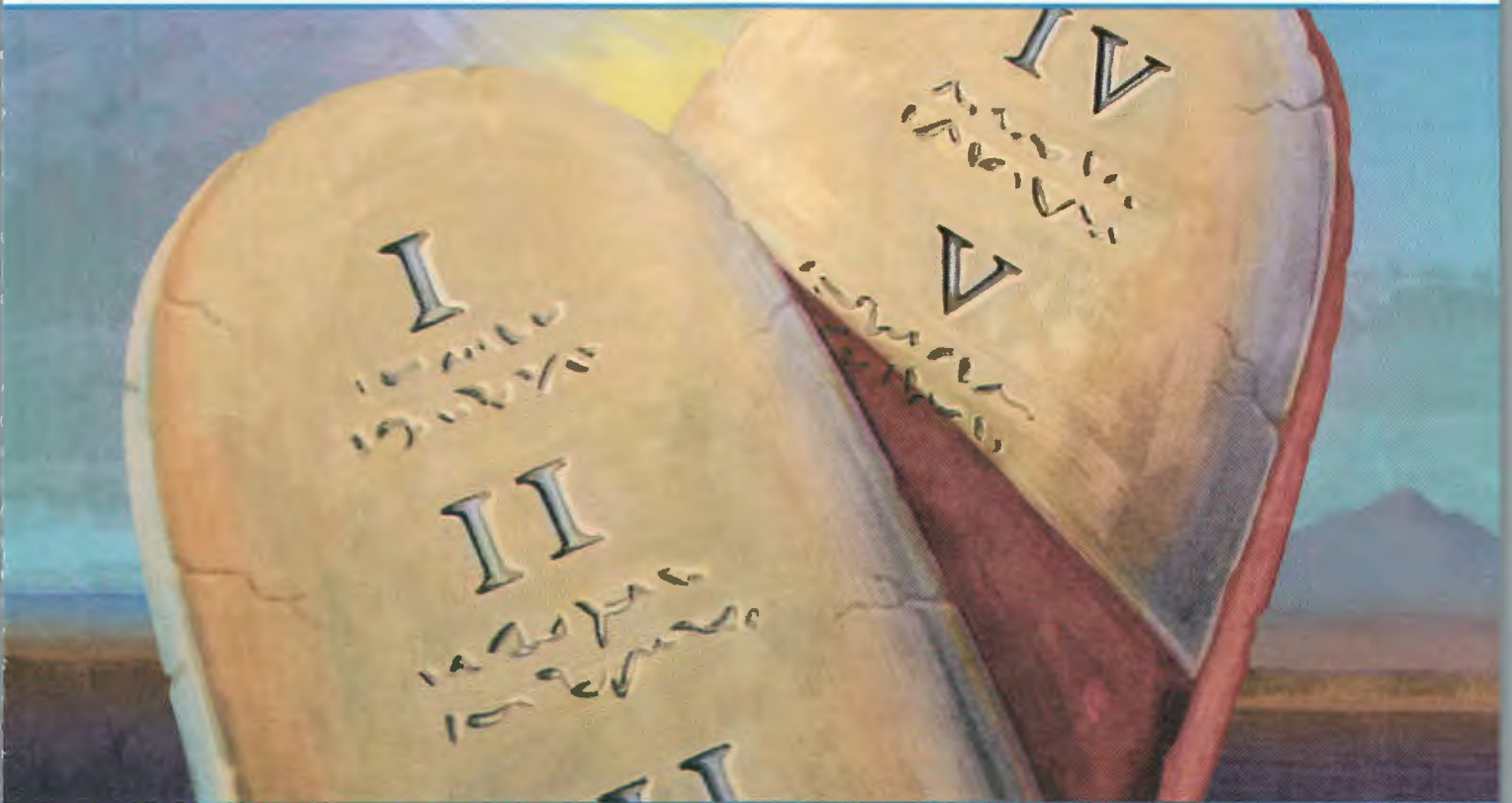


ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 4

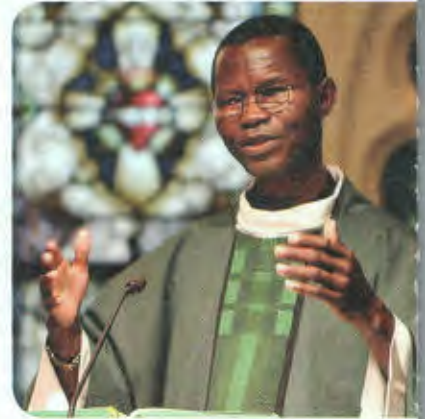
The Moral Life

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Our Sunday Visitor

The Church



Our Catholic Tradition

- Every person has a vocation to love and honor God, share in his happiness, and become more like Christ as we serve others and work for his Kingdom. (CCC, 1877)
- Mary and the Saints are models and teachers of holiness for all of us. (CCC, 828)
- Jesus gave Church leaders the authority to explain Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition to the faithful. The Holy Spirit directs Church leaders in teaching and guiding the faithful. (CCC, 95, 100)

How does your vocation help you to become a Saint?



Called to Serve

Let Us Pray

Leader: God of love, we gladly honor and obey you.

“Praise, you servants of the LORD,
praise the name of the LORD.” **Psalm 113:1**

All: In our Baptism, we are called to holiness. You call us by name to know you and serve your people. Open our hearts that we may hear your call. Amen.

Scripture

So Samuel had all the tribes of Israel come forward, and the tribe of Benjamin was chosen. And the family of Matri was chosen. Finally, Saul, son of Kish, was chosen. But they could not find him. Samuel asked, “Has he come here?” The Lord answered, “He is hiding among the baggage.” **Based on 1 Samuel 10:20–22**

Dear Sunday Visitor

What Do You Wonder?

- How does God call people today?
- What will help you respond to God's call?

God's Call

What does it mean to have a vocation?

Everyone has a **vocation**. A vocation is God's plan for our lives: the purpose for which he made us. Sometimes God calls a person to a special role. When Jesus was ready to begin his work, he gathered some friends to help him.



Scripture

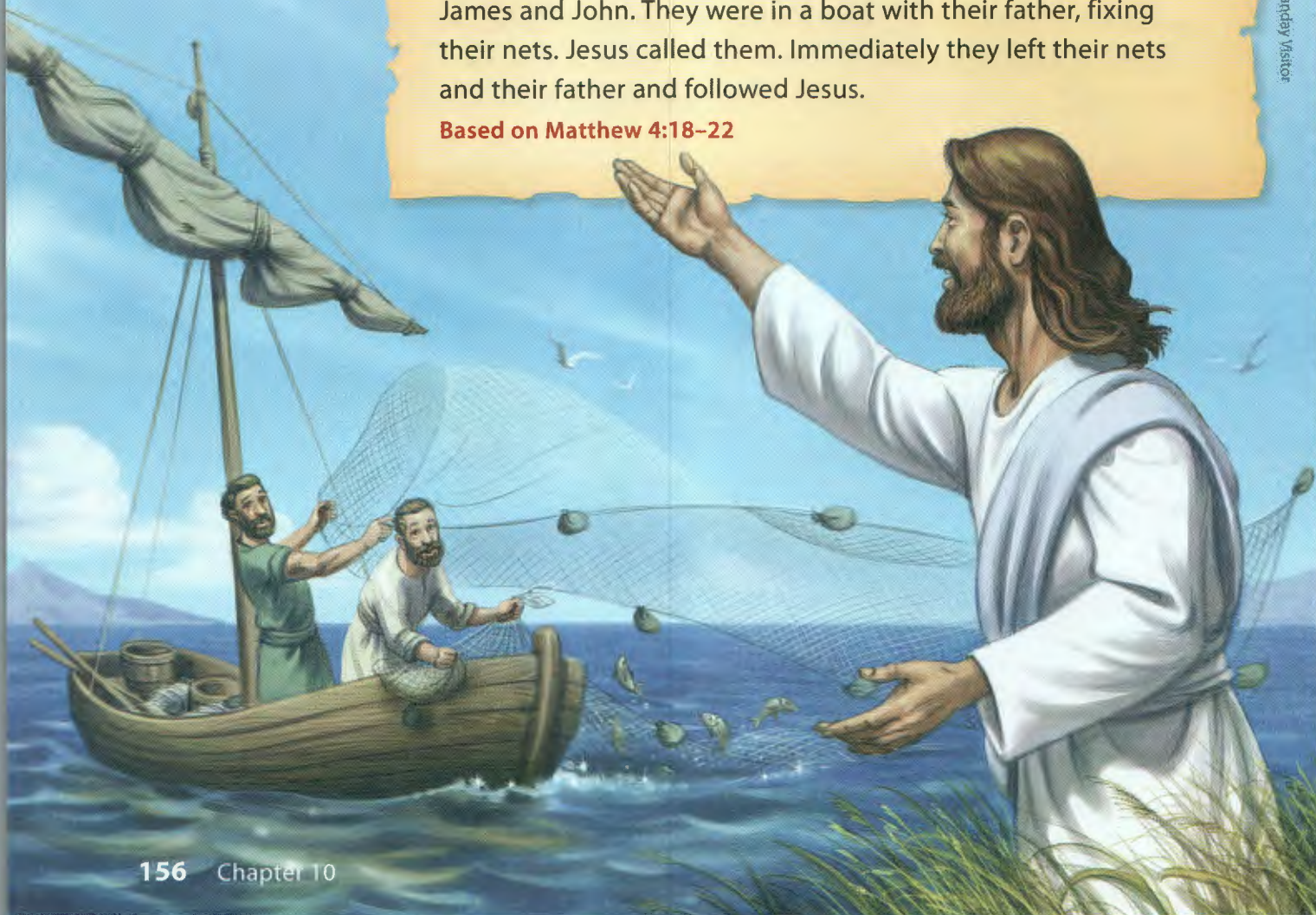
The Call of the First Disciples

One day, Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee. He saw two brothers, Peter and Andrew. Andrew cast a net into the sea. The brothers were fishermen.

Jesus said to them, "Come follow me. I will make you fishers of men." At once, they left their nets and followed Jesus.

Jesus continued walking. He came upon two more brothers, James and John. They were in a boat with their father, fixing their nets. Jesus called them. Immediately they left their nets and their father and followed Jesus.

Based on Matthew 4:18-22



Vocation and God's Kingdom

Not everyone hears God's call as clearly as the first disciples did. Sometimes it takes many years of praying and listening to know your vocation.

All vocations can make the **Kingdom of God** more visible. God's Reign is the world of love, peace, and justice that God intends. Jesus announced the Kingdom and revealed it in his life and ministry. But God's Kingdom will not be here fully until the end of time when Christ returns in glory. Until then, we are called to help God increase his rule in our lives and in the world.

➔ **What signs can you see of God's Kingdom?**

Ways to Respond to God's Call

The Catholic Church recognizes four ways in which people respond to God's call to serve: through the priesthood, consecrated religious life, committed single life, or the married life. Consecrated religious life is a state of life in which a person usually makes **vows**, or promises, that help them to grow in holiness. Baptism sets us all on the journey of holiness. Priests and married couples take vows as well.



Priesthood



**Consecrated
religious life**



**Committed
single life**



Married life

Catholic Faith Words

vocation God's plan for our lives; the purpose for which he made us

Kingdom of God God's rule of peace, justice, and love that exists in Heaven, but has not yet come in its fullness on Earth

vows solemn promises that are made to or before God

Share Your Faith

Reflect Think about two people you know who serve God.

Share Tell a partner how these people are an example of service for you.

Serving the Church

How can we use our gifts to serve?

Catholic Faith Words

laity all of the baptized people in the Church who share in God's mission but are not priests or consecrated sisters or brothers; sometimes called lay people

The Church recognizes that some people may be called to serve God by remaining single. The dedicated single life is also a vocation. Both single and married people are part of the **laity**. All who are baptized are invited to serve the universal Church and the parish community. Here are some ways we do this.



Circle the roles that interest you or that you have questions about.

Many Gifts

The **pastor** and **pastoral associate** lead and serve the parish community.

The **permanent deacon** is ordained to assist the pastor—especially at Eucharist, marriages, and funerals—and to perform works of charity.

An **extraordinary minister of Holy Communion** not only helps distribute Holy Communion at Mass, but also takes Holy Communion to those who are sick or housebound.

The **lector** proclaims the Word of God at the Liturgy of the Word.

Altar servers assist the priest at Mass by carrying the Roman Missal, the sacred vessels, and the cross.

Musicians practice and lead the assembly in sung prayer.

Catechists teach Scripture and the Catholic faith to members of the parish.



Venerable Anne de Guigné

Venerable Anne de Guigné's beloved "Papa" died when she was four years old. She decided to become as good and as kind as she could. As she grew older, one of her teachers noticed how happy Anne was. The teacher asked Anne for the secret to happiness in life. Anne replied, "Jesus loves me very much, and I love him very much." Anne knew Jesus' love because she had a special gift for prayer. She received her First Holy Communion when she was six. From then on, she offered up her prayers for all those who did not know and love Jesus.



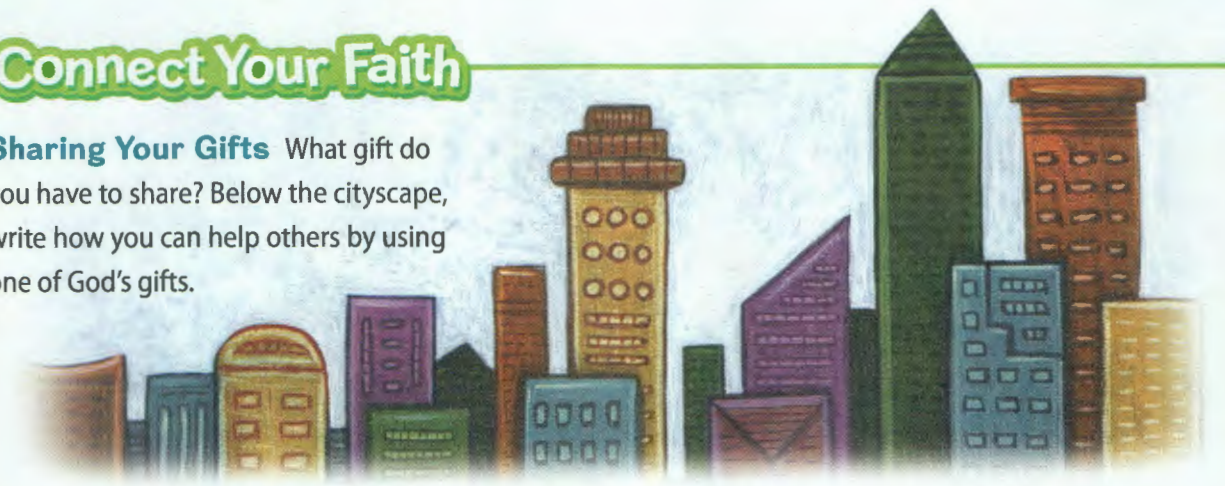
Using Your Gifts

You can already use your gifts from God to make a difference. Discerning your vocation means learning, through prayer, about what God wants you to do. You don't have to do something big and public to make the world a better place. Like Venerable Anne, you can do it quietly and privately.

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Connect Your Faith

Sharing Your Gifts What gift do you have to share? Below the cityscape, write how you can help others by using one of God's gifts.



Our Catholic Life

What does your Baptism call you to do?

Like the disciples and Venerable Anne de Guigné, you too have a calling. Your call, like that of all Catholics, came to you at your Baptism.

You probably do not remember your Baptism. You might have heard stories about how you cried or smiled. You

know the names of your godparents. Now that you are older, you have learned more about the importance of the Sacrament of Baptism.

Through Baptism, you share in Jesus' ministry as priest, prophet, and king. Here are some ways to live your baptismal commitment.



Add some other ways to these and fill in your name on the last line.

Live Your Call



As Priest

- Learn about God's plan for all creation.
- Pray with and for others.
- _____



As Prophet

- Learn what the Church teaches about morals and justice.
- Help other people make good choices.
- _____



As King

- Take responsibility for your actions and choices.
- Follow Jesus' example by serving and forgiving others, especially those who are most in need of justice, mercy, and loving care.
- _____

_____, may you live as priest, prophet, and king.

People of Faith

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, 1813–1853

September 9

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam was born in Milan, Italy. For a time, he studied law. When he lived in Paris, he discovered a love for literature. His friends challenged him to find a way to live out his strong Christian beliefs in his everyday life. Frédéric realized that he had a call to help those in need. He helped found the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, which still helps those in need, especially those who are poor. Frédéric was also a university professor and wrote many books. He tried to live out his vocation in all he did.



Discuss: How do you live your call to holiness?



Learn more about Blessed Frédéric at aliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

Write On each finger of the hand, write one way you can use your talents in your parish. In the center of the hand, write one way that you can use one of your talents to bring more peace and justice into the world this week. Discuss your idea with a partner and talk next week about how you accomplished your goal.



 Let Us Pray

Prayer of Petition for Vocations

This prayer of petition for vocations is a chance to reflect on how God calls each of us to use our gifts, as Jesus did, to build the Kingdom of God.

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: You have called each of us, Loving God, to be all that you created us to be. Send your Spirit to give us the desire to use our gifts to make your world a better place.

God's Call—My Vocation
Litany

All: _____, God calls you.

Leader: God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Baptism. In Baptism, you called us to participate in Jesus' ministry as priest, prophet, and king. Give us the courage, through the power of your Spirit, to be faithful to your call.

All: Amen.



Sing "Gifts"

We thank you, God,
for giving talents to us.
Now we use those gifts
to serve others and you.
Singing and teaching,
helping each other.
Caring for needs
of our sisters and brothers.
We thank you, God,
as we give our talents back to you!

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FAMILY+FAITH

LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains vocation as God's plan for our lives and the purpose for which he made us; answering God's call and following his plan for us helps us grow in holiness.

Scripture

 Read **1 Samuel 10:20–22** to find out how one person responded to God's call.

Catholics Believe

- God calls every person to a vocation.
- Through your vocation, you can help God increase his Reign.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #941, 2046 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, who was a cofounder of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. Blessed Frédéric is an example for us of someone who answered and lived God's call for his life.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand Their Call from God As fourth-graders hear that God has a plan for their lives, they are capable of realizing that this plan is different from the one he has for anyone else. They have the free will to choose to follow—or not to follow—God's plan. With help and support from adults like you, your child can begin to better identify the talents and interests that can point to God's plan and also to see the opportunities to further explore God's path for his or her future.



CONSIDER THIS >>>


Do you think of your marriage as part of God's plan for you to grow in holiness?


God invites us to grow in holiness through our vocations. The vocation of marriage helps us become one with God by loving our spouse. As Catholics, we know that “God created man and woman out of love and commanded them to imitate his love in their relations with each other. . . . [Both] are equal in human dignity, and in marriage both are united in an unbreakable bond” (*USCCA*, p. 279).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to explain vocation.
- Affirm your child's gifts and talents, naming some ways he or she could use them to bring happiness to others and serve God.

LET'S PRAY >>>

 God, help us answer your call as Blessed Frédéric did, so that we may do your will for our lives. Amen.

 For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Chapter 10 Review

A Work with Words Complete the following paragraph.

1–5. Jesus announced that God’s _____ was at, _____ hand. By this he meant that God’s Reign of _____, _____, and _____ had begun with him, but was still to come in its fullness. All of us are _____ by God to cooperate with him in bringing his Kingdom to fullness.

B Check Understanding Fill in the circle next to the answer that best completes each statement.

6. The purpose for which God made us is known as a _____.
 vocation
 vacation
 Commandment
7. _____ people who are baptized can serve a parish.
 Some
 All
 No

8. _____ lead the people in prayer when they celebrate Mass.

- Deacons
 Parishioners
 Priests

9. Deacons do all of the following EXCEPT _____.
 assist at the Sacraments
 perform works of charity
 lead a diocese

10. Both single and married people are part of the _____.
 ordained
 laity
 consecrated

