

# ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 6

The Word of God in the Old Testament

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**Our Sunday Visitor**

# Lives of Service

## Let Us Pray

**Leader:** Gracious God, make us all your servants.

“Gladden the soul of your servant;  
to you, Lord, I lift up my soul.” **Psalm 86:4**

**All:** Gracious God, make us all your servants. May we be  
“Christ” to one another. Amen.

## Scripture

As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace. Whoever preaches, let it be with the words of God; whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. **1 Peter 4:10–11**

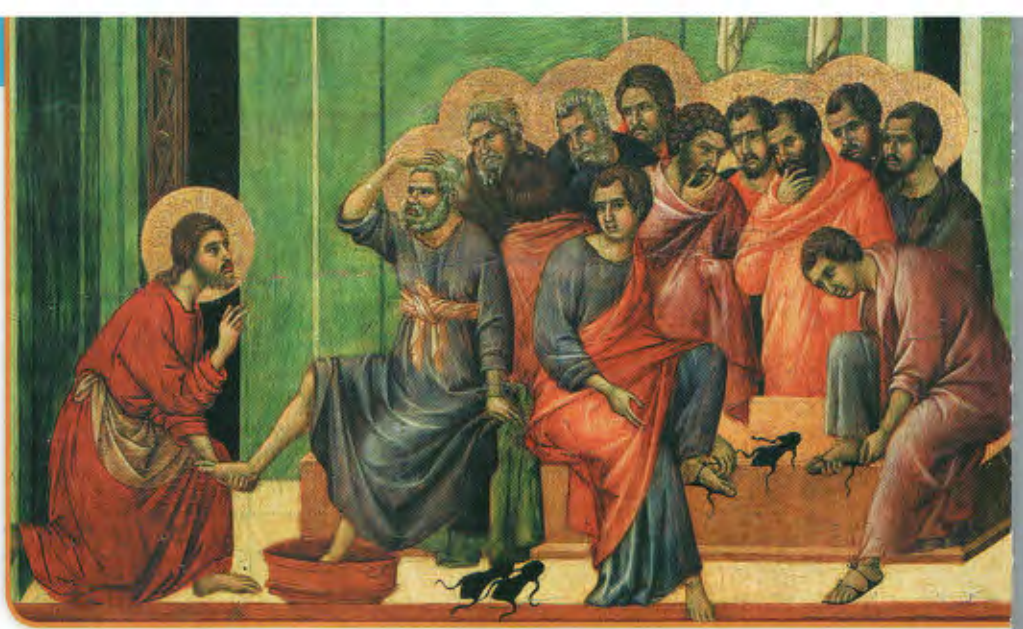
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### What Do You Wonder?

- Why are our talents and abilities referred to as gifts?
- How does your life give glory to God?



In this painting, how are the disciples reacting to Jesus washing their feet? What might they have thought and felt?



## Called to Serve

### What is the meaning of the word vocation?

Serving others is an essential part of being a baptized person. Jesus placed great importance on it. At his Last Supper, Jesus knew that his Death was near. Knowing that he would not have another chance to teach his disciples before he went to the Cross, Jesus did a surprising thing.

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### Scripture

#### The Washing of the Disciples' Feet

Jesus got up from the table and poured water into a basin. He then knelt to wash his disciples' feet. His disciples were very surprised at first. When it was Peter's turn, he objected by saying, "You will never wash my feet."

Jesus told him, "Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me."

At this remark Peter looked serious and replied, "Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well."

Then Jesus returned to his seat at the table. He asked his disciples, "Do you realize what I have done for you?" Then he explained, "If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet." **Based on John 13:1-15**

➔ Explain to a partner what Jesus wanted his disciples to understand when he washed their feet.



## The Cost of Serving Others

In Jesus' time, people who were poor walked barefoot, and those of a higher class wore sandals. Washing the feet of guests when they entered a home was a job for servants—the owner of the house would not do it. It was shocking for Jesus' disciples to see him do such a thing.

Jesus' action was a sign that his disciples needed to be purified before they could enter his Kingdom, just as you were purified by your Baptism. The washing of the disciples' feet was also a reminder that serving others would not always be easy. The disciples would have to humble themselves, just as Jesus would be humbled by his Passion and Death. Serving others involves helping others even when it is inconvenient or difficult to do so.

## Your Vocation

Today, followers of Jesus usually are not asked to wash people's feet, but all of us are called to love and serve God and our neighbor. This is part of our **vocation**, God's plan for us and the purpose for which he made us.

When you are older, you may decide to live out your vocation by answering God's call to the ordained priesthood, to religious life, to marriage, or, perhaps, to the committed single life.

You may not yet know the vocation to which God is calling you. By praying, learning more about Jesus, and looking at the gifts and talents God has given you, you will discover your vocation.

### Share Your Faith

**Reflect** Recall the list you made of your talents and gifts.

**Share** Choose a life's work that would use those talents and serve God, and write it here.

Then write two ways that you could serve others through this work by using these talents and gifts.

### Catholic Faith Words

**vocation** the purpose for which God made us and a particular way to answer his call, whether as a lay person (married or single), a member of a religious community, or a member of the ordained ministry







## Living the Call

### How do people live out their baptismal call?

Everyone who is baptized is called to continue the mission of Jesus by serving others. But some are called to ordained ministry through the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

**Holy Orders** confers a sacred power, through the laying on of hands by the bishop, for serving the faithful by teaching, leading the people in worship, and pastoral governing. Bishops, priests, and deacons all share in this Sacrament of Holy Orders. Ordained men are marked forever as Christ's representatives.

A **bishop** serves the Church as the pastor and teacher of his diocese. All the bishops work together with the Pope for the good of the whole Church and make up the **Magisterium**, or the teaching authority of the Church.

**Priests** assist the bishop within a diocese. As pastor of a parish, a priest shares the bishop's work in the diocese. Priests act *in persona Christi*, as a representative of Christ, and preside in celebrations of the Sacraments for the parish.

**Permanent deacons** are ordained ministers who serve the diocese and parish by assisting in liturgical roles and by doing works of charity. Married men can be called to this ministry.

### Consecrated Life

Some priests live in religious communities in what is called **consecrated religious life**. Members of these communities dedicate themselves to serving God by following the charism, or special grace, of the community and its founder. There are also many communities of religious sisters and brothers. Members of religious communities may teach, care for the sick, work as missionaries, or do other good works.

Members of religious communities profess in public to live three vows, or sacred promises, that are found at the heart of the Gospel—poverty, chastity, and obedience. These vows are also called the evangelical counsels.

### Catholic Faith Words

**Holy Orders** the Sacrament in which a baptized man is ordained to teach the faithful, lead divine worship, and govern the Church; ordained ministers serve as bishops, priests, or deacons

**Magisterium** the teaching office of the Church, which is all of the bishops in union with the Pope. The Magisterium has the teaching authority to interpret the Word of God found in Scripture and Tradition.

**consecrated religious life** a state of life lived in community and characterized by the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience



## The Evangelical Counsels

<b>Poverty</b>	The choice to live a simple life and to share material possessions in community.
<b>Chastity</b>	The choice to maintain the right balance of body and spirit in human sexuality. This is also a virtue that requires the proper integration of sexuality according to one's state of life. For men and women religious, this means living a celibate life.
<b>Obedience</b>	The choice to follow and obey God's will as it is expressed through the guidance of the community's leaders, the charism of the community, and the individual's conscience.

Those who accept the call to ordained priesthood or consecrated religious life choose lives of service for the sake of God's People. Because they are human, they can make mistakes. But they are always worthy of respect, because of their human dignity and their willingness to make a difficult and lifelong commitment in service to God's People.



Write the name of someone in ministry who has served you by helping you know more about Jesus.

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### Connect Your Faith

**Living Vows** Explain how to live each of these vows in your own words.

Poverty \_\_\_\_\_

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Chastity \_\_\_\_\_

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Obedience \_\_\_\_\_

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## Our Catholic Life

How can you follow the example of Jesus in serving God and others?

Jesus taught his disciples a great deal about service. His words can help you today as you work to serve God and others.

In the Gospels, Jesus speaks words of great wisdom. He teaches what it means to be a servant. Here are a few Scripture passages in which Jesus tells how to serve.



In the second column, tell how the words of Jesus in each passage help you serve.

### The Wisdom of Jesus

*"I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father."*

John 15:15

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*"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."*

Mark 9:35

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*"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me . . . whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."*

Matthew 25:35-36, 40

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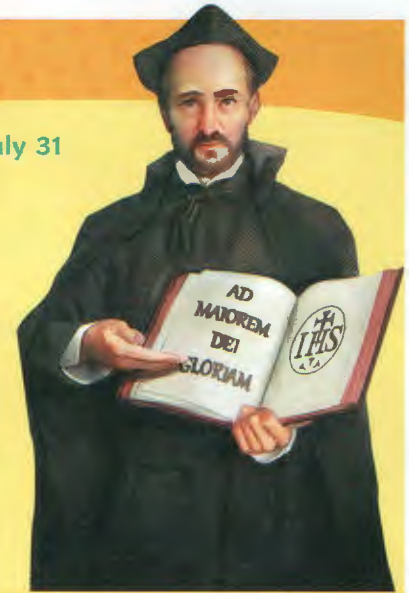


# People of Faith

July 31

## Saint Ignatius of Loyola, 1491–1556

Saint Ignatius was a soldier. While recovering from a wound, he read a book about the life of Christ and decided to become a priest. He founded an order of priests called the Society of Jesus, also called the Jesuits. Saint Ignatius wrote a book called *Spiritual Exercises*, which people still use today as a way to help others experience Jesus' love. His motto was: "Do everything for the honor and glory of God." The Jesuits are famous for their learning and teaching. They continue to spread the Good News of Jesus in parishes, high schools, and universities.



**Discuss:** How do you use your call to share the love of Jesus with people?



Learn more about Saint Ignatius at [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com)

## Live Your Faith

**Explain** what is happening in these images. Describe how the people are serving others. Then name one thing you will do this week to serve others in your parish or community.





 Let Us Pray

## Prayer of Petition

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

**Leader:** God our Father, bless all who serve you and others.

**Reader 1:** A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Read Hebrews 5:1–6.

The word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Reader 2:** We ask that your ministers may grow to a greater love of Jesus.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader 3:** We ask that the Holy Spirit may strengthen their hearts and enlighten their minds.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader 4:** We ask that through their efforts and ours, in the power of the Holy Spirit, your Kingdom will continue to grow.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Let us pray.

Bow your heads as the leader prays.

**All:** Amen.



Sing "I Will Choose Christ"

I will choose Christ,

I will choose love,

I choose to serve.

I give my heart, I give my life,

I give my all to you.

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## YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter defines vocation as the purpose for which God made us and a particular way to answer his call, and explains that Holy Orders confers a sacred power for serving the faithful.

### Scripture



Read **1 Peter 4:10–11** to find out about God's gifts to us and how we are intended to use them.

### Catholics Believe

- All of the baptized are called to follow Christ by serving others.
- Ordained men serve God through preaching the Word and through celebrating the Sacraments.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #897–900, 1548–1553 at [uscgb.org](http://uscgb.org).

### People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Ignatius of Loyola. His motto was: "Do everything for the honor and glory of God."

## CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

**How They Understand Service to Others** Sixth-graders enjoy helping others, especially when they feel that they have made a unique contribution no one else could have made. Still, their limited ability to know what something feels like for someone else may cause them to miss opportunities to serve others if no one points out these opportunities to them.



## CONSIDER THIS >>>

Do you think it is more difficult to hear God's call in the world today?

Despite the "noise" of our culture, God continues to call each baptized person in a unique way to respond to Jesus' invitation to service. We call this a vocation. As Catholics, we know that "ordination to the priesthood is always a call and a gift from God. Christ reminded his Apostles that they needed to ask the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into the harvest. Those who seek the priesthood respond generously to God's call using the words of the prophet, 'Here I am, send me (Is. 6:8)' (USCCA, p. 269).

## LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to explain the word *vocation*.
- Share with your child about a time when you felt God was calling you or your family to serve him and others.

## LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Ignatius, pray for us that we may do everything for God's honor and glory. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).



# Chapter 17 Review

**A Work with Words** Match each description in Column 1 with the correct term in Column 2.

## Column 1

1. A call to love and serve God
2. Marked forever as Christ's representatives
3. A state of life often lived in community
4. The teaching authority of the Church
5. Confers sacred power for serving the faithful by teaching, leading worship, and pastoral governing

## Column 2

- Magisterium  
Holy Orders  
vocation  
consecrated religious life  
ordained men

**B Check Understanding** Circle True if a statement is true, and circle False if a statement is false. Correct any false statements.

6. All baptized people share in the Sacrament of Holy Orders. **True/False**

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7. Jesus taught that if anyone wants to be first, he or she must be a servant of all. **True/False**

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8. Among their works of service, members of religious communities teach, care for the sick, and work as missionaries. **True/False**

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9. At the Last Supper, Jesus taught the disciples how to serve by showing them how to prepare a meal. **True/False**

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10. Members of religious communities take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. **True/False**

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