



VOCA TIONS
ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

Youth Ministry Program
Theme: *Come, Follow Me!*

Purpose:

1. Educate teens about the different lifestyles of all vocations.
2. Challenge teens to picture themselves in all possible vocations.
3. Encourage open and honest discussion about all possible vocations.

Supplies:

1. Several small objects that can be laid on the floor (the more objects, the more difficult the activity becomes)
2. Blindfolds (enough for half the group)
3. Masking tape
4. Digital camera with Video cable (yellow ended cord that attaches to the TV and camera)
5. Television with AV jacks

Activity #1: Icebreaker: Mine Field

1. Use tape to mark a beginning and an end of an open area of the room (the more room you have the better).
2. Place small objects (and possibly larger objects such as chairs or tables) randomly in the open area to create a "Mine Field."
3. Have the group split up into partners and choose one person to "guide" and one to be the "soldier" who must cross the "Mine Field."
4. Choose a group to go first (or choose several groups depending on your group size, your room size, and the amount of time you have for the activity).
5. The "soldier" will then put on the blindfold and stand ready to walk through the "mine field." The "guide" moves away from the "soldier" and gives him directions from a different location next to the "mine field."
6. Meanwhile, all the other members of the group (or just a few if you wish) can be the voice of different influences in a person's life (parents, friends, enemies, society, television, etc.) and give the "soldier" directions according to the role they choose. You may even want a couple members of the group put blindfolds on and give directions (so as not to intentionally lead the "soldier" away from his goal).
7. The object is for each blindfolded person to reach the goal by listening to his or her "guide" without touching any of the mines.
 - a. If the person touches a mine you can do one of two things:
 - i. Have the teen start over.
 - ii. Have the teen continue from that point but lose the use of the part of the body that touched the mine.
8. After the activity, discuss these lessons:
 - a. Listening to God's voice above all other voices will lead us to the ultimate goal of peace.
 - b. It is difficult to hear God's voice sometimes when we have so many other influences in our lives urging us to go in so many different directions.
 - c. Sometimes even when we are listening to God we become unsure and can stumble and make mistakes.
 - d. Patience is a very important part of prayer and discernment: God will speak to us and guide us if we remain open to Him and His will.

Activity #2: Picture me! Get used to the look

1. Teens take turns putting on the appropriate vestments/habit of a priest/religious and the youth minister takes pictures of each of them with the vestments/habit.
2. After taking the pictures, attach the camera to the television and display each of the images of the teens.
3. Tell the students that they can choose to get a copy of the picture later if they would like.
4. While scrolling through the pictures, stop at each one and discuss the feelings of the teens who put on the vestments/habits.
 - a. What was it like putting on the vestments/habit?
 - b. How did you feel when you saw yourself dressed as a priest/sister?
 - c. Had you ever wondered what it felt like to be a priest/sister?
 - d. Now that you have experienced a little piece of being a priest/sister, could you see yourself considering more in the future the idea of becoming one?
5. Discuss the feelings of the others whose pictures are not on display. (This last part could be done on paper, collected by the youth minister, and handed to the teen in the picture to keep.)
 - a. What was it like seeing your friend dressed as a priest/sister?
 - b. Could any of you picture him/her as being a good priest/sister?
 - c. What qualities about him/her would make him/her a good candidate for this vocation?

Activity #3: Host a Q & A session with Priest/Religious/Deacon

1. Set up a comfortable environment (**not a lecture format**).
2. Prepare the speaker to talk for a few minutes about his/her life and his/her vocation story.
3. Have each teen think of at least two questions to ask about that vocation.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, Jesus Christ, you called laborers to the fields and warned them that they were few in numbers and would have to work hard. Those words remain as true today as they did so many years ago. So, we pray that you continue to send willing souls into your fields to promote and build the City of God that He might truly reign over the entire world. Sitting with us today we know we are priests, brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers, and single people and only with Your grace can we truly fulfill our vocation. And so we ask, through the powerful intercession of Your most holy mother, Mary, ever-virgin, grant us the grace to open our hearts that we may become willing servants, ready to do all that you ask of us and that we will allow Your Holy Spirit to move us toward the vocation which will make us most complete. Amen.