

Day 1

Materials and preparation:

___ pictures from internet of different kinds of dogs

___ pictures from the internet of different kinds of cats

___ pictures from the internet of different kinds of birds

___ pictures from the internet of different kinds of snakes

___ pictures from the internet of different kinds of cars

___ pictures from the internet of different kinds of trucks

___ pictures from the internet of different kinds of SUV's

Behavioral Objective

Children will know the difference between a primary vocation received at baptism and careers that are also called vocations. They will demonstrate their knowledge by answering the questions on a worksheet with 80% accuracy.

Anticipatory Set

I want you to look at some pictures. When I show you the pictures, I want you to tell me what you see.

Hold up many pictures of a variety of dogs. The children should just keep saying dog. Then hold up a few pictures of cats; let the children say cat. Now do the same with birds, and let them say bird. Finally, with snakes, let them say snake.

Go back to the dogs. Ask what kind of dog is this? What kind of dog is this? But they are all dogs.

Do the same thing with each animal. Then if there is time and the children seem interested or seem like they need more practice on what you are trying to teach, use different types of cars (Ford, Chevy, Saturn, Toyota) and trucks (Ford, Chevy, Dodge) and SUV's.

They are all cars, trucks, SUV's, but we can break them into smaller parts. Today we are going to look at how God calls us into categories and then once we figure out our category, we are still in a smaller category. Dog, cat, bird and snake are all animals, but we put them into a category of dog, cat, bird, and snake. Then, we call this type of dog a poodle; this type of cat a Siamese cat; this type of bird a cardinal. Trucks, cars, SUV's are all vehicles or automobiles, but we can categorize the vehicles into truck, car, SUV and then we can tell the type of truck: Dodge or the type of car, Toyota. God does the same for us in our lives too. Let us learn how God does this.

Purpose

Children will know the difference between their baptismal vocation and what is sometimes referred to as a vocation that is also a career.

Input

Draw a large circle on the board.

This is our baptismal font. These are the waters in which we are baptized. Most of you were baptized when you were infants. Now, it looks like to us that this is just water and we are going to get wet. When we all get wet, we all get baptized and we are all brought into the Body of Christ and we all have our sins washed away. That is all correct, but some special things happen to us at our baptism as well.

Draw a cross on top of the circle so that the circle is divided into four sections.

So, that we are all baptized is the big category like animal or vehicle in our little demonstration we just did a few minutes ago. Now, you see, we are going to talk about 4 categories. Each of us belongs to one of these 4 categories and we cannot belong to something else. One of these four categories is what God has chosen for us – as the Creator of us. By our baptism, our parents “Yes, we want to find out what my child’s category is.” At Confirmation we say to God ourselves, “Yes, I want to find out what my category is.” Now, when we talk about one of these four categories, I am not going to call them categories. There is a special name for them and it is “vocation.”

Checking for Understanding

What are these four categories called? Children say vocations.

Some are single. All of you are single. Many people remain single and do not become priests or a special calling to single life as a sister later on. They stay single. The single life is a vocation God may have chosen for you and began to reveal to you at your baptism.

During this instruction, write the word SINGLE in one of the sections of the circle.

Now, a single person is supposed to live his or her entire life focused on God and on other people. God does not call people to the single life so they can be selfish and only think of themselves. That’s why in our Catholic school we are always telling you to think of others and treat others kindly because you are single and you are not single to be selfish, but to think of others and help others all of the time; that is what God wants of you right now in your vocation. If you stay single, that is what He will want for the rest of your life. And, again, some He calls to the single life. Their vocation is the single life.

Most people at some point in their lives find out they are called to get married.

During this instruction write MARRIAGE in another section of the circle.

If you are called to the vocation of marriage, God is calling you to work and live for another individual. This is not a selfish vocation where you simply do this to get all of your needs met and it becomes all about you. No, it is all about the one you are supposed to marry. That’s why in this Catholic school, we tell you to watch out for each other, to be kind and help each other. If you don’t take care of your classmates and others around you, you will not take care of the one you are supposed to marry either. Girls, when you are thinking you would like to get married, you need to spend your time asking the Lord to give you the husband you are supposed to marry. Ask that your husband prays to St. Joseph often since he was the great husband and great dad. And ask the Lord who it is you are supposed to marry. Boys, when you are thinking you would like to get married, you need to spend your time asking the Lord to give you the wife you are supposed to marry. Ask that your wife prays to the Blessed Virgin Mary often since she was such

a great wife and mother. And ask the Lord who it is you are supposed to marry. You see, God is the one who has decided who should get married and who is called to these other vocations. We don't get to decide because we are not the creator, we are the created. And when we do what our creator created us to do we find our ultimate happiness. If God is calling you to the vocation of marriage, He is calling you to a life of service – a life lived for others, not a self-centered life (husband/wife if they don't know the word spouse) and your children.

Not all of you are called to marriage and some of you boys are called to Holy Orders.

During this instruction write the word HOLY ORDERS in another section of the circle.

If God is calling you to be a priest, to Holy orders, He is calling you to live for others. In marriage, he is calling you to live for your spouse and children. Here, God is calling you to live for everyone, to love everyone. Like marriage, it is not a selfish lifestyle, nor a selfish vocation. We are given this vocation because God wants us to bring the sacraments, especially the sacrament of the Eucharist and Reconciliation to his people. We are always supposed to be leading people to Jesus Christ as we model our lives after Jesus Christ. Just like in marriage, it is God who calls us to be priests. This is His gift he has given us to call us into Holy Orders. Like marriage, holy orders is a sacrament. This sacrament happens during mass. God calls men to Holy Orders. Deacons, priests, and bishops receive Holy Orders. Religious sisters, sometimes called nuns and religious brothers who do not become priests do not receive Holy Orders, but are called to their lives, set apart from single women and single men. Let's look at the religious sister vocation now.

During this instruction write RELIGIOUS LIFE in the remaining part of the circle.

God calls some to be a brother or sister and not to get married. These types of brothers and sisters belong to religious orders: Benedictines, Franciscans, Dominicans, Precious Blood, Notre Dame sisters, just to name a few. There are so many religious orders that there are big books to look at with many different religious orders. God calls these men who are to be brothers and women who are to be sisters to join him in a special way. For the women, we call them the bride of Christ. They are to have special relationship with Jesus, the Son of God. When they live their lives totally for him, it will show in the way in which they show love toward all people they meet. To love Christ totally will be shown by the way in which it overflows into love of others. Remember, it is not you who are choosing to be a brother or sister. First, God chose you by your baptism. He is the one who chooses this for you.

Too often in our world, in the world in which you all live, we can look at this picture and then we ask you, which of these do you want to belong? That's not a calling, nor is that the way gifts are handed out. This is not a situation where God says ok, choose one, I don't care which one; He does; He's called you to one and it is your responsibility to be a follower of Jesus Christ to be asking in which of these vocations did you call me to show my love to you? In which of these vocations are my called to achieve holiness? God chooses, we choose to follow his will and be happy or to ignore his will and be not as happy.

Now, some of you will say to me, I want to be a teacher, a lawyer, a veterinarian, a doctor, a factory worker, a farmer, or an electrician. Can married people be teachers, doctors, lawyers, etc? Can single people be teachers, electricians, veterinarians? So can priests, sisters and brothers. When you talk to me about how you will make money and pay bills, that is not the same thing as a vocation we were just talking about; that's a job or a career. Because you are helping people, some might call it a vocation, but it is not a vocation received at baptism. There are only four vocations at baptism: let's name them together: Marriage, single, religious, holy orders. Good, now with holy orders you are a deacon, priest, or bishop. With religious you are either a religious sister or religious brother. These religious brothers can be doctors, surgeons,

teachers, or scientists. But their vocation by baptism is to be a religious brother.

Checking for understanding

Here is a worksheet I want you to do. I have a lot of words on it, next to each word, you tell me if it is a vocation or a career.

Independent practice

Worksheet

Bible: 1 Corinthians 12: 27-31

Day 2 : Apostolate of Sacramental Minister

Materials and preparation:

___ Bible marked to John Chapter 6 and to John 22:19-22

___ Purple stole

___ Paten (what the hosts are on at mass)

___ Chalice (precious cup used at mass)

Behavior Objective

Students will appreciate the role of the ordained priesthood in the apostolate of Eucharist and Reconciliation. Boys will demonstrate their appreciation by writing a paragraph about what it would be like to do either one of these sacraments as a priest. Girls will demonstrate their appreciation by writing a paragraph of what it would be like if there were no priests to give out the sacraments.

Anticipatory Set

Today, I want you to listen as I read a story to you from the Bible. Just close your eyes and try to picture yourself as one of the members of this crowd. What are you wearing; wear are you in the crowd; who is next to you. Read the Bread of Life Discourse in John 6.

Ask the questions: Did you feel like leaving? Were you getting nervous as people were leaving? Why did you stay?

Today, we are going to talk about the sacraments. We are mainly going to talk about two sacraments: Reconciliation and Eucharist. These are the two sacraments that are reserved to the ordained priesthood. Before we look at those in detail, let's ask who can offer the sacraments:

Baptism: everyone in case of emergency, otherwise the deacon or priest.

Eucharist: Bishop who is also a priest and priests.

Confirmation: Bishops or they delegate that ability to a priest.

Reconciliation: Bishop who is also a priest and priests

Anointing of the sick: Because it absolves people of their sins, bishops and priests.

Marriage; Deacons and priests; the couple are the actual ministers of the sacrament. Deacons and priests witness it for the church.

Holy Orders; Bishops; they cannot delegate this to a priest.

Purpose

Children will appreciate the role the priest has in the Eucharist and in Reconciliation.

Input

I want us to revisit our bible story I just read to you a moment ago. Did you notice how Jesus was telling his disciples that this really is Jesus' body and blood they must eat and drink? We still believe that is true today; but where or how do we receive Jesus' body and blood? Right-- in the Eucharist. But, how did the last supper become the Eucharist for us? If we go to Acts of the Apostles, we see that the community, after Jesus' ascension into Heaven, broke bread together; that means they came together to have mass just like we have mass! Let's read from Justin Martyr, a priest who lived around the year 100. Here is what he says took place when they gathered for "breaking Bread." Catechism of the Catholic Church 1345 Sounds similar doesn't it?

Of all of the things a priest does in his busy day, celebrating mass is his most important and what he should consider the highest moment of his day. A lot of boys think it would be difficult to be a priest because they think it would be hard to think of what to say to give a homily. Priests, who pray, spend a lot of time praying with scripture, praying with the Bible, so the stories become very familiar to the priest. What a boy needs to think about when he is thinking about priesthood, is imagine Jesus Christ using your hands to change bread and wine into his body and blood so he can nourish his people through you! The Holy Spirit helps create and give the homily, but more importantly, think about the awesome holy ability through God's plan for you that you are the one who Jesus uses to give people the Eucharist!! Let's think about that for a few moments in silence.

If you would like to play the song, I can Only Imagine by Mercy Me, it may help. YOU can play half the song now and half at the end of the next paragraph.

Let's listen to another scripture reading this time from John (John 22:19-22). The priests do a lot of important things. Another important thing they do for people is they are the one's who let Jesus use them so Jesus can take away your sins. Jesus Christ is the one true priest who takes away your sins. Jesus, however, wants a personal contact with you and wants to be visible to you, so he uses the priest in your parish to absolve you of your sins, but it is really Jesus himself who is doing that. The reason a priest cannot tell anyone about a sin he heard in confession is because it is none of his business. That person who said that sin really said it to Jesus Christ and the priest simply overheard it to do his ministry. But personally for the man the priest, he has no right to hear it. So, he cannot use it for any purpose. Jesus forgives you and absolves you of your sins. Again, how incredible is that to be called by Jesus to be used for his glory in this incredible way. Jesus calls his priests and uses them in this incredible way. It is the priest who brings the soul home to Christ. Imagine being the one who is called to take away people's sins in the name of Jesus the Christ! Yes, Jesus may be calling you to do this.

Second half of Mercy Me's I Can Only Imagine.

Today, we talked about sacraments that a priest does. We call this the apostolate of Sacramental Ministry. What is an apostolate? It is a holy ministry that God specifically calls people to do. A priest celebrates mass; but his apostolate is celebrating mass at this specific parish. One of his apostolates will be to administer the sacraments. When we know which ones, where, and how he does it, then we know his apostolate. There are several apostolates and we will look at them this week.

Checking for Understanding

There are two sacraments that are central to a priest's life: what are they? Who actually celebrates both of these sacraments? Where would you go in the bible to find where Jesus talks about receiving his body and blood to eat and drink? Name two places you would go to find

where Jesus tells his disciples they are called to forgive sins. What is an apostolate?

Independent Practice

Assignment as described in behavior objective.

Day 3: The Apostles of Preaching and Teaching

Behavior Objective

Students will learn that priests learn how to preach and give the homily. They also use this knowledge to help them become teachers of the faith. They will demonstrate their knowledge by drawing a picture of a parable written in one of the Gospels.

Anticipatory Set

Please tell me what comes next:

sing "Happy Birthday to you..." let the children sing the next line-finish the song. Say, "Row Row Row" ... children finish it. Say "Our Father who" ... Say "I pledge allegiance" ...

There are things that are so familiar to you, you know them so well, that all I have to do is say the first few words and you know what to say next and can finish the thoughts. Have you ever noticed, though that even after we know them so well, we keep saying them and they still make us feel good.

I want you to imagine that it is your birthday and someone says to you, "we know it's your birthday so we're not going to sing to you, we didn't get you a cake and we are not buying you any presents. Face it, you know it's your birthday too, so why go through all the trouble?" That would be kind of weird and you would probably feel kind of bad and maybe even go to your room and cry some. That would be understandable if you did, because you rightfully looked forward to your birthday even though every one knew it was coming.

Imagine if we decided to stop praying familiar prayers or if we stopped singing familiar songs. Things would be very different. These songs and these prayers are continually said because we teach them to each other. Your grandparents taught your parents these prayers and your parents and teachers taught you these prayers, and you will be expected to teach someone these prayers. Do you think you know them well enough to teach the prayers to another person? Do you know the Happy Birthday song to another person? Sure you do. Sure you can!

Purpose

Students will know the ways in which priests preach and teach so as to be able to visualize themselves preaching and/or teaching.

Input

I want to read you a story. It's from the Bible. Read them chapter 1 of Genesis. Then ask them how many have heard this story before.

What would happen if every day after school you went home and read that story? How many of you believe at some point you would have it memorized? How many of you think you could hear something different if I read it to you again? If you say no, then what was created on the third day? See, you don't have it memorized yet, so you would learn something new if it were read to you again. With God's stories, even after you have them memorized, He can still teach you something every time you hear the story. Think about it with the Happy Birthday song. When a baby who is one year old hears that song will it mean something different than when he hears it at 5 years old and hears it from his classmates? Will it mean something different the first time you are able to have friends spend the night on your birthday? Will it be different when you get your car for your 16th birthday? Will it be different the first time your parents are not celebrating your

birthday with you, like that first year in college? Of course – even though you have the words memorized, the situation of your life has changed and that changes how that song affects you.

The same is true with the readings in the Bible. Priests have to spend a lot of time learning what the bible says and praying over what the bible says. The priests take classes to help them learn what the bible says. In one class in seminary – seminary is the place the student goes to find out if God is calling him to be a priest, he takes a class learning about Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Those are the first five books of the Bible. He can take another class called The Prophets (Show prophets to them) Or the Psalms (show them the psalms.) Then, he can take classes on Matthew, then on Mark, then on John and Revelation and then on Luke and Acts. He can take another class on all the letters Paul wrote. So, that's a lot of information the priest to be has on the bible. But, that's not so important as making it come alive for him which he does by actually praying over the bible passages.

Let me help you understand this better: Let's say your mom says there is a fourth grader who lives in another state who is having a birthday party. You are supposed to take a day trip on Sunday to go to his birthday party. You tell your Mom, I don't know this kid and I don't know any of his friends or family. Your Mom says, you are going anyway; so you get there and you are right; you don't know anyone there. But, you see them cutting cake, the birthday boy opening gifts and they sing the song "Happy Birthday:" You join in on singing happy birthday. Yes you know the words, but the song doesn't mean much to you at this party because you don't know anyone there.

Now, your best friend invites you to his sleepover birthday party and is very excited you are coming. So, when it is time, you sing the Birthday song with all the gusto and excitement you can. Now, you still know the words to the song and now the song means more to you. The same thing happens when the person who is deciding if God is calling him to the priesthood not only learns from classes what the bible says – that's like going to the person's house and singing the happy birthday song without knowing anyone there. If he prays with the bible and over these same readings he studied in class, it's like singing the happy birthday song at your best friend's first sleep over birthday party.

Lets say you get to help plan your best friend's birthday party: How would you begin to get your ideas for the party? You could ask people, you could think about it for yourself, you could go to the store and buy some things, you could make some things yourself. All of these are good ways to get your ideas. What you care about is that it is a good party because this is a good friend.

The priest can do the same things with preparing to preach: he can ask other priests what he will preach about this weekend – they will be the same readings; he can buy books to see what others are saying about these readings, he can sit and pray over the scripture he has to preach about, he can think about what he will preach. What the priest cares about is that it is a good homily for his good friends – the people in the pews and his best friend Jesus Christ. Just as you don't have to make everything and not ask anyone for help to prepare your really good friend's birthday party, so the priest can use all sorts of helpful things to plan his homily to preach. Just like you actually have to put things into action to really make this party happen, so the priest really has to read the scripture readings, pray over them and then find ways to make them meaningful to the people on Sunday.

In the seminary, priests learn a lot about what our church teaches. We have to make sure we know that information well and that we actually believe it ourselves. Then, when we are asked to teach a class on the topic, we can do so because we can make the material come alive. We can make it meaningful to the people we teach.

Let's say you do a really good job planning the birthday party for your best friend. So, someone

comes up to you and asks, "will you plan a party for me too next weekend?" So you say, "hey that was fun planning that party, let's see if I can plan this party too." Well, just like we as priests get to preach on the weekends which is a form of teaching, we also can teach many other places than just during the homily on Sunday. We teach in schools, we teach adults who want to get married, parents who want their children baptized, parents who's children will be receiving reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time, and many other times. Priests teach people about Jesus and Jesus' church all the time – during the homilies and outside of mass as well. How do the priests continue to come up with a homily day after day? They love the stories of the Bible and they continue to fall deeper in love with them by not only studying the stories but also praying over these stories. Now, we have an exercise we are going to do.

Checking for understanding

There is a man who lived long ago named St. Ignatius of Loyola. He told us a lot about how to use our imagination in prayer. So, today for our assignment we are going to use our imagination as we listen to this story.

Hand out poster paper and have them get out their markers/ crayons. Then, read a familiar parable to them.

I am going to read a story from the bible you have all heard before. I am going to read it three times. As I read it, you put yourself into the story. You will notice a lot of little things missing, like, what color was Jesus' clothes? Where were the trees and the flowers? Was it warm and sunny or overcast and cloudy? That depends on your imagination. As I read it three times, you just pray and think about what it would be like. Then, after I finish reading it the third time, you are going to draw a picture of what you just heard. You can color it as you see fit.

Day 4: The Apostolate of Healing

Behavior Objective

The children will learn that the priest and sister spend a lot of time visiting the sick and those unable to get to church because of health restrictions. They will also learn priests anoint the sick. To demonstrate their knowledge, they will write a paragraph explaining how they would want to be treated if a priest/sister came to visit them while they or someone they loved was sick. If they remember being with a sick person when the priest/sister came to visit, they can write about that experience.

Anticipatory Set

Has anyone here ever been in the hospital? Has anyone here ever been hurt? Has anyone here ever been sick? Let the children share their stories? Has anyone visited someone in the hospital or been at someone's house who was very sick? Let the children tell their stories. Has anyone ever felt scared while visiting someone in the hospital or didn't know what to say to someone who was sick? Today we are going to talk about the apostolate of healing: both priests and sisters go to visit sick people all the time, then we are going to talk about the sacrament a priest can give to the sick and dying people. Let me say right now, you do not have to be dying to receive this sacrament. Lots of people believe that, but you don't. If you are out skateboarding and you break your arm and you want a priest to come anoint you because now you are injured, you can ask a priest to come anoint you even though everyone knows you will recover. This is the first time I will say this, but I will say it again.

Purpose

Students will know that priests and sisters visit people and that the anointing of the sick, given by a priest, is more than praying for cures for the ailments.

Input

Sometimes people your age think about priests and they realize priests celebrate mass and hear confessions. If you let them think a little longer, you realize they baptize babies and that they have something to do with the schools... hard to figure out, what, but you see them around the school, so you know they are doing something. A priest will spend a lot of his time visiting people who are sick – at the hospital, in the nursing homes, and at people's homes. Sometimes people are sick and they don't want anyone to know they are sick. But, they let the priest or sister know, so one of them goes to visit. Sometimes people know a person is sick but does not know exactly what is wrong with the person, but both the priest and sister know what is wrong because the sick person has told the priest or sister. Most of the time what the priest or sister hears during these conversations and regularly, even that the priest or sister is going to see the sick person is kept a secret. A person has the right to tell who he or she wants to tell about his or her illness. Because of this, a lot of times the priest or sister goes and visits and no one knows where Father or sister is. Father or sister is not going to tell either. We call this being confidential. For the good of the person who is doing the talking the one doing the listening says nothing to another person about what was said.

Think about it this way: we are at Taco Bell and there are three people there and one of you has an accident in your seat. If I was a good friend, I don't go home and tell everyone, I just help you and keep it quiet so you are not embarrassed. If you want to tell someone, it's your story to tell, not mine. That's the way it is with priests visiting sick or hurting people.

Let's see how Jesus responded when he visited with the sick people:

Stories of Jesus visiting the sick. Mk 5:21-34; Lk 4:38-44; Lk 5: 17-26; Jn 4:43-54; Jn 9:1-28

Notice that most every time Jesus visits a sick person he also cures them. Why is it that when we pray for a sick person, they don't always get cured? Is our faith just weak and God says, "you aren't praying hard enough" But, sometimes you lay in bed crying that Grandma is not getting better and you pray with all your might that Grandma gets better? Certainly you are praying with all the faith you have. So what is going on? God is powerful enough and merciful enough and loving enough...

We have to understand when Jesus was walking on earth, everyone in the world knew – believed —that the reason people got sick or got hurt or were deformed was because of a sin they committed or because of a sin someone in their past family committed. And, this was their punishment. Jesus would cure the person to say, I can take away sins. This is my proof that I can take away sins. Now, today if I meet a blind child or a child in a wheel chair am I supposed to think he is being punished for his sins or the sins his family committed before he was born? No, not at all. Not sins that were committed, just the results of original sin: everything bad that happens in this world is the result of original sin. But when you are baptized, we say your original sin is washed away. How did it get washed away? From Jesus dying and rising from the dead. How are our sins forgiven in confession? By Jesus dying and rising from the dead. So, what about the child who is blind and the child in the wheelchair? Jesus is saying, "at your baptism, I washed you clean of all your sins and in reconciliation I forgive you of all your sins." That there is deformities, sickness, and injuries is only allowed so we can be like Christ and turn our suffering over to him who takes it and places it on his cross to join our suffering to his suffering. And sometimes Jesus does cure us: every time a doctor fixes us or gives us medication, he learned that because Jesus gave him that information to do that. And, sometimes cures happen that doctors cannot describe. That's God curing them.

But, there is a way that a healing can take place every time a priest visits. That is the when the sacrament of the anointing of the sick takes place. Now, notice when Jesus came to someone who was sick, he visited with them a few moments. Priests should not walk into a room with a sick person, pray the prayer of anointing, anoint the person, and leave. That would be rude. Rather, the priest takes his time and visits with people in the room—the sick person and the friends and relatives. Then, after a short while, he anoints the person: there is a special oil called oil of the sick. Father, says some prayers and then places some oil on his own finger and smears that oil on the forehead and palms of the hands of the individual while praying.

ANOINTING PRAYER HERE While anointing the forehead, "Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit." While anointing the palms of the hands of the person "May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up."

Now, even though this person may not get cured, some sort of healing will take place: a physical healing is called a cure. What happens if you are going in to have your tonsils removed and you are very scared and nervous. Mom and dad have visited with you and tried to calm you down; Grandma is going to buy you ice cream afterwards, but that isn't calming you down. In walks the priest and visits with you in a patient and calm way and listens to you tell him how afraid you are and repeats back what you are saying so you know you have been heard, then he says, "let's give you an anointing..." so the family goes through the prayers and you are anointed and ten minutes later you begin to be calm and ok on the inside. That is the healing of nerves and feelings. Maybe you are fine but Mom and Dad are very nervous for you – even though you are anointed, they begin to be calm and relaxed. Remember, sacraments are never for the individual but always for the community: Here is a case where the healing took place in other members of the community other than the one receiving the oils. What happens if you and your sister are in a lot of arguments and suddenly your sister starts running a high temperature and has to be taken

to the emergency room and no one can figure out what is wrong. So, the priest is called in and anoints her and suddenly you find yourself apologizing a lot to your sister: Here, the healing is between you and your sister and a relationship is healed. You must believe that every time a person is anointed a healing will take place. This will help your prayer life because you may think, "I am praying and lots of people are praying yet this person who I love keeps getting sicker and sicker... even after Father anointed her she continues to get sicker.." and then the person we love dies. Where was God, where was my prayer? First, God has been right beside you and the sick one the whole time. Second, God was preparing a place for your loved one to enjoy everlasting life. This person will now live forever with God and one day, you too will join this loved one. As for you, sure you will miss this person, but God is right there by your side getting you through the sadness and difficulties of missing the person. Your sadness is now with Jesus on his cross with his suffering on the cross. Your suffering of sadness, though is in the future of when Jesus died on the cross; your suffering goes back in time to the time of Jesus' crucifixion and death. How can that be? That event is God entering into our world and into our time. God has no beginning and no end and is infinite, so he cannot fit within time and place. All time and place belongs to him and He sees the past, present and future all at a single moment. So, with God, all things are possible including taking our suffering in the present moment and placing it with Jesus on the cross in the past.

When Jesus cured people in the past, it was to show he could really take away sins. He shows us he can really take away sins now differently because he died for us on the cross to take away our sins. Now, he shows us he forgives by us going to reconciliation. When we are sick, we take our suffering to the cross with Christ's suffering on the cross. The priest is the one who is like Jesus and heals people in their sickness: reconciliation and forgiveness of sins: either in the reconciliation room or when he anoints someone. Every time someone is anointed their sins are forgiven.

Now you can't fool God. If you are awake and with it when you are getting anointed you should go to confession as part of the sacrament. If you are not awake or you are out of it when you are anointed, when you recover, you need to go to confession to confess your serious/ your mortal sins.

Bible: James 5:14-15

Checking for understanding and Closure

I want you to understand what we talked about today. So, that I know you understand it, for your homework, write a page explaining a time when a priest or sister came to visit someone you know – or you when someone was sick. If that has never happened in your life, how would you like the priest or sister to be – describe the conversation to me in your one page assignment.

Day 5: The Priest's Apostolate of Presence

Behavior Objective

Students will demonstrate their knowledge of the priests' apostolate of presence by explaining a typical day in the life of a priest. They will know that a priest does more than celebrate mass and hear confessions

Anticipatory set

Imagine if you were supposed to take a science test. You spent all last night getting ready for it by studying and praying. Just as the teacher hands out the test and you are praying to do very well on the test since you've studied so hard, the fire alarm goes off. You quickly realize this is not a fire drill but a real fire! You don't see the smoke or flames, but you can just tell. So, everyone hurries out of the building. Soon, the fire trucks are at the school and everyone begins to notice orange in one of the classrooms; then you see flames shoot out of one of the windows. Now, do you suppose the day that was planned for you in school is going to be the same or do you think things are now going to be different? What about when you get home? Will they be the same or what will be different? Today, we are going to talk about the apostolate of presence: the priest has to be expected to change his plans very quickly in a day and he must be ready to act all the time. This means he has to be present a lot. We will talk more about what that means today.

Purpose

Students will learn a priest does more than celebrate mass and hear confessions; that their day sometimes does not go as planned.

Input

If you ever wrote down what you did, you would have the beginning of a calendar: for example: if we wrote down Monday through Friday you are in school from 8-3 and then each day we wrote down your practice schedule and your homework schedule; that would be your calendar. Maybe you see the schedules on the refrigerator and sometimes you see Mom or dad write on their personal calendar they keep with them or maybe in their little hand held computer they are writing appointments and meetings in it. Priests have to keep a calendar or a schedule of their daily events as well. Sometimes the day is not interrupted. He gets up early enough to get in his personal prayer as part of his regular thing he has to do like brushing his teeth as part of what he does to start his day. Then, he heads over to the church, sets up the sanctuary for church and then has mass. After mass, he gets the church ready for him to leave it and then heads over to the school to visit with the principal to see what is happening in the school he needs to know about. He brings his calendar so he can write down upcoming basketball games, the school play and the fourth grade field trip. He may not go to any of these events but he writes them down in case he can and certainly to pray for the individuals involved with each one.

As he is talking to the principal he learns a teacher has a sick husband and she is worried about her husband. He also realizes two third graders are having a hard time getting along. So, he makes it a point later in the day to visit with the teacher – the teacher says to the priest not to tell anyone they talked because not too many people know just how serious this sickness really is. So, Father listens intently. She thanks him for letting her speak and she says she feels better after speaking to Father. Father looks at his watch and realizes he has a few minutes to visit with the two third graders. He pulls them out of class and visits with them. One wants to interrupt the other. He stops the one from interrupting and listens closely to both of them. He says a few things to them about how they are to do what Jesus would do and neither has done so well with

that. He asks them to write down 5 ways each they could be more like Jesus to each other and tells them he will contact them in one week to make sure they are using these five ways regularly. If not, they will not get recess for three days. Then, the priest writes it in his calendar he has to check up on the third graders in a week. Next, he realizes he is supposed to be at the nursing home to visit with some people he hasn't seen in a while, so he heads to the nursing home. One of the women he was supposed to see has her children and grand children with her, so Father stops by to visit with the whole family. He offers everyone present communion. One of the children tells Father he has just eaten so he can not receive. Father educates the family that when you are visiting the sick and someone unexpectedly shows up to offer the Eucharist, you do not have to have an hour fast. So, everyone agrees to receive communion with the woman. Father leaves and visits two other people and sees that it is time for his lunch meeting with a parishioner who invited him to lunch to talk about a project happening at church. As Father listens he realizes this is not the time to have this project at church, so he tells the man this is not a good time to do it. The man begins to get upset, but Father keeps calm; he repeats what the man wants to do and gives all the reasons why this is a good idea to the man; then he tells the man why it is not a good idea. After the lunch, it is time for Father to work on what he needs to put in the bulletin. After he finishes that, he goes for a walk with his rosary in hand. It is good to pray and exercise at the same time sometimes. Then, he gets ready for his evening appointments: visiting with two couples who want to get married and one meeting about the school. Father is done for the day about 9PM; 14 hours since the 7AM mass. At 9PM, to relax he reads a few chapters of his book and then watches the news. This is an example of a day where as we would say, you studied for your science exam and the exam took place the next day. There are days where the fire alarm goes off just as the teacher hands out the science test. What does one of those days look like?

Father gets ready for mass and has mass. While handing out communion, someone falls out of their pew onto the floor. Father, puts the hosts on the altar and asks if there is a nurse or doctor at daily mass; there is not. He asks who has a cell phone with them. He orders someone who raises her hand to call 911 and tell the person where we are and to send an ambulance. Father goes to the person and tries to wake her. No response. He keeps working with the person and finally the ambulance arrives and the priest says while they are loading her in the ambulance we will continue giving communion to those who have not received yet. So, while the lady is being loaded in the ambulance, father concludes mass. Father then calls a relative of the person who passed out in church and told the person where the loved one was taken. He tells the person he will meet them at the hospital. Father goes to his secretary, grabs his calendar and says, call these people and cancel these appointments, he has to be at the hospital. Father goes to the hospital and already 6 of the person's relatives have arrived. No one can get any answers from anyone. Father continues to listen and visit with the 6 relatives. As they are visiting, more relatives continue to arrive. Finally, a doctor comes and tells the family, with father there, that the woman passed away and that there was nothing more they could do for her. The family is invited to go see the woman and say their good-byes. The family invites father to be with them. Father goes and does not say anything; he just stands and prays quietly while the family cries and visits with their loved one saying their good-byes. Suddenly, the conversation changes to how happy it must be to die in church during mass. What a beautiful experience! They begin to ask Father questions about the funeral. Father answers in slow short sentences reminding them they can ask him again later after they visited with the person who will be in charge of the funeral. After an hour, Father decides he can leave. The morning didn't go as planned, so to take care of himself, he goes to the park and walks then to the music store to see what new music is out. As he got to his office, he gets a phone call that a person really needs to come in and talk to him right now. So, looking at his calendar he realizes he is so far behind, he allows the person to come in. Good thing because they want to go to confession even though they haven't been in 25 years. Then, the priest finds out this man is going to die soon. Father leaves his office and heads to the birthday party for his principal. He celebrates with the school teachers and principal. By now the news of the woman who died at mass that day was out and that is talked about at the party.

Father responds with what he knows and what he can say. Father is home by 9PM when he prays his rosary and reads a chapter in his book before going to bed.

Pretty much, this is how he lives 6 days a week: He is present to his people: present means he knows to celebrate with those who are happy and wanting to celebrate and he grieves and is sad with those who are sadden and grieving. And, Father has to be able to do what he likes to do each day so that he can be ready for the next event that comes his way. Father is always trying to be Jesus to those who come his way... in good times and in bad times. How is Father able to do that? Father has to take care of himself and realize when he takes care of himself, he is better able to take care of his parishioners: Father must pray regularly each day, take some time off from working doing what he likes to do and getting his exercise. If he chooses not to do these things, he will not be helpful to his parishioners. Father has the right and responsibility to force time for relaxation and prayer each day.

You may want to know what priests do each day: they interact with people and try to bring Jesus to those people they meet. They try to bring Jesus to each situation in which they find themselves. In each situation talked about whether it was planned like day one or whether it was not planned like day 2, Father did the same thing: he brought Jesus to the people he met with. A priest brings Jesus to people and to situations. A priest does this by being present to people and by taking care of himself so he can continue to be present to people. It's the ideal of "thanks for always being there for me." Or, What do you like about this person "She's always there for me." Well, that is the role of the priest – to be there.

You were paying attention if you heard me say Father does this 6 days a week. The seventh, Father does what he wants that is holy; not sinful. What are his hobbies and interests? He does these things all day long because it is his day off. Father needs a day off each week so that he can continue being helpful to his parishioners the other 6 days of the week. So, some go to movies at the movie theaters; to the play at the theater, golfing, bowling, renting movies and watching them at home, going to a friends house and hanging out; going to a friend's house and playing video games; going to a concert; going shopping; hunting, fishing, going for a drive, going for a long bicycle ride or a long motorcycle ride or getting together with a few people to go 4 wheeling. He might watch a ball game on tv. Whatever he is interested in doing, he can do that. It has to re-energize him so he can go again the next week taking care of his parishioners as Jesus calls him to do.

Check for understanding

To make sure you understand this, I want you to write a page explaining what priests can do besides celebrate mass and hear confessions: These two days I talked about in the life of a priest are made up; they could happen very easily; you make up a day in the life of a priest. Remember to explain how the priest is bringing Jesus to this situation; how is the priest paying attention and really caring about the individuals with whom he is talking to.