

Third Grade: Lesson 8

People in the Church

Lesson Objective:

These outcomes help the children to understand that the Church that Jesus established has a certain order and hierarchy. It is important to emphasize that everyone has a role and God calls each of us to participate in a unique way.

Learning Outcomes:

- Describe the Church as the Body of Christ: clergy, laity, hierarchy, and communion of saints (CCC779 and 789).
- Explain the roles of the pope, bishops, priests, deacons, the consecrated, and laity (CCC 882, 888, 897-898, 916, 926, 928-929).
- Understand that God has a plan for each person to serve the Church in a particular way (single, married, consecrated, ordained) (CCC 871-873).

Materials Needed:

- Prayer Space items, Bible, crayons, pencils, blank paper (optional)
- Copies Needed: 3 Holy Order Roles in the Church, Venn Diagram, Holy Orders Worksheet, How Can I Serve the Church, or My Gifts

As Students Enter Class:

- Last week's topic was the 7 Sacraments. While students enter the room and wait for class to begin, consider providing a blank piece of paper and ask students to draw and/or write what they remember about the 7 Sacraments. Ideas include: What are the names of the 7 Sacraments. Why did Jesus give us the Sacraments? What items are associated with the Sacraments.

Beginning of Class:

- Provide students sharing time if you did the above activity.
- Gather around your prayer space and ask a student to select a prayer from your small bag or basket. Recite the prayer all together.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 8 Video	<p>This video is 1:11 in length and Carla touches upon all three learning objectives.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <p>Last week we learned about the 7 Sacraments. How many can you name? Which Sacraments have you received? Do you remember that Sacraments give us _____? (Grace)</p> <p>God has a plan for each of you to serve the Church in particular ways. You may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single • Married • Consecrated • Ordained <p>These are called vocations. Depending on your vocation, you will serve a specific role that God has planned for you!</p> <p>The Church also has roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pope • Bishop • Priest • Deacons • Consecrated • Ordained <p>All together these people and vocations form the one body of Christ.</p> <p>The Church also includes people who have come before us and have passed on to Heaven. This means the Church is both human and divine, which is one of God's great mysteries.</p>
What is the Structure of the Church Idea:	<p>This video is 3:25 in length. It is well done and explains the structure of our Church clearly for all of us to understand.</p> <p>Highlights:</p>

It would be helpful to students if you are able to draw the hierarchical structure of the church on the board or a large piece of paper, as you learn about each section or structure of the Church.

The Church has a hierarchical structure. The 12 Apostles are reminiscent of the 12 Tribes of Israel that were part of the Old Covenant. Therefore, the New Covenant (Jesus) established 12 new tribes.

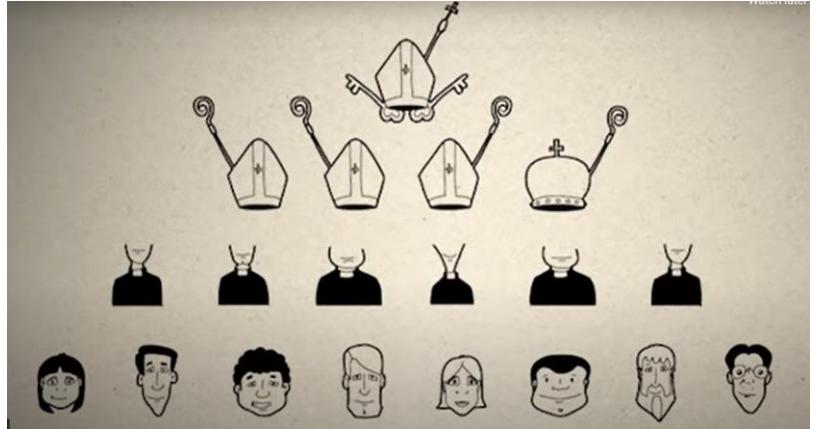
The Apostles went out to preach the Good News to all people (after Pentecost). AS they created new Christian Communities, they appointed men as new leaders of these communities. These men are Bishops and they are successors to the Apostles concentrated to their office by laying on of hands.



Peter was the special Apostle among the Apostles. So, the Bishops have a special leader among them, which is the Bishop of Rome. He is the successor to St. Peter and he is called the Pope.

The Pope's job is to guarantee unity within the church and that the teaching of Christ is passed on properly.

The bishops also have co-workers to help them serve smaller communities within their Diocese and these men are called priests. Priests work in a parish and the priest in charge of a parish is called a pastor.

	<p>This is the basic hierachal structure of the church.</p>  <p>It is important to note that our Church is structured as a hierarchical of service, not power. The Pope is the servant of all. Technically, the above picture, then, could be turned upside down.</p>
Discussion	<p>Take time to either ask questions for facilitate a discussion with your students about the setup of our Church. What observations or questions do they have? Possible questions: Who is our Pope? Who is our Pastor of our Church?</p>
You Have Gifts and Talents	<p>This video is 1:31 in length and it is well done. The narrator opens with the analogy of receiving a birthday or Christmas gift. Whoever gives us a gift has spent time to buy us something special because they care about us.</p> <p>When you were born, you were given gifts by God called talents. Whatever you are good at is your talent. It could be sports, music, science, math, art, etc...</p> <p>God made you that way for a reason – to serve Him with your talents.</p>

	<p>Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- Colossians 3:23-24</p> <p>DISCUSSION: What do you think this Bible verse means?</p> <p>With your gifts, you can serve the Lord. It doesn't matter what other people think of you, as long as you do what God wants you to do.</p>
<p>What is a Vocation?</p>	<p>This video is 5:12 in length. It has men and women from all vocations explain what their vocation is and how it fits into God's plan. It is a good video but a bit above a third-grade level.</p> <p>Sister Mary: God's plan is for all of us is to be with Him in Heaven. It doesn't matter if we are married, or entered the priesthood or religious life, there is nothing better than following God's will. The sister lives a happy, fulfilling life because it is what God called her to do.</p> <p>Father Jeb: He wants young people to believe in themselves and to believe that God has called them because He loves them. You don't have to first prove yourself to God. Get to know yourself and to believe in yourself and recognize that God will use you in ways you didn't think were possible.</p> <p>Married Couple: We are the domestic church. Through the vocation of marriage, we love Christ through our marriage and our children. God wants you to love your vocation. He calls each of us to do what He has in His mind. Every single vocation is called to be a gift of self. We aren't</p>

	<p>truly happy until we give of ourselves fully in love.</p> <p>Bishop Burbige: Reminds us that God has created all of us in His image and likeness and has a divine plan for each of us. We need to pray for the grace we need to live in a manner worthy of the call we received. We will only be able to discern our vocational call through prayer and spending time in silence. Ask: Lord, what is it you're asking me to do in my life?</p>
Vocations	<p>This video is 2:06 in length. It moves quickly and has great pictures of people of all ages, but mostly young people. Fr. Charlie and Sister Alecia narrate this video.</p> <p>Highlights: When we use our talents for God, we grow in holiness, which means being the best YOU, you can be. We have Jesus, Mary and the Saints to show us the way!</p> <p>What is God's plan for holiness in your life? God wants you to be happy in this life. He wants you to pray and talk to Him to discover your true purpose. Your purpose is also called your vocation.</p> <p>A vocation can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married Life • Single • Priesthood • Religious Life <p>And we serve in various ways. Our true vocation will be God's plan for how He created us to love. This means how to love others now and how He is calling for us to love others in the future.</p> <p>But for now, you are called to pray. Spend quality time with Jesus in prayer and adoration. Don't forget to ask questions to Jesus, your parents, priest and others. They can help you figure out your vocation.</p>
Discussion Time	All the videos have a similar message: God loves you and wants you to be happy. As 3 rd graders,

	<p>we are learning all about our Catholic Faith. Currently, your vocation is being a student and learning all you can. You are learning how to pray, how to spend time in silence during prayer, and how to listen to what God has planned for you.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some ways you like to spend time with God. • Are there new ways or ideas you would like to practice?
Activities: 3 Holy Order Roles in the Church	<p>Suggestion: Use a Venn Diagram. The Venn Diagram is a graphic organizer that easily organizes similarities and differences when comparing two items.</p> <p>Link to Venn Diagram</p>
Holy Orders Worksheet	<p>This can be done as a whole class, individually, or in pairs, depending on the needs of your students. You would have to have reviewed the role of the Deacon during the 3 Holy Order Roles in the Church activity in order for students to answer questions about deacons on this sheet.</p>
How Can I Serve in the Church?	<p>This activity encourages students to think about this topic in present time and in the future.</p>
The Gifts God Gave Me Optional activity Gifts Activity This could also be used to open the next class as a review.	<p>The Gifts God Gave Me...</p> 

Closing Activity and Prayer	Gather students around your prayer space and model a prayer of thanksgiving to God for your gifts. Select a gift you are thankful for to model for students. Then encourage each student to share his or her thanksgiving prayer: God thank you for my gift of _____. May I use it to do your will.
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