

2nd Grade: Priesthood

OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVE:

To associate a priest with celebrating Mass, healing people, and teaching.

Main Concepts:

- A priest is someone who celebrates Mass and brings us the Eucharist.
- In the sacraments of anointing of the sick, baptism, and reconciliation, a priest prays for healing. Sometimes there are miracles and the person is healed.
- A priest teaches people about Jesus.

PLANNING DIRECTIONS:

Teach the core components. Select and include other components given the time you have and the needs of your students.

INTRODUCTION

2 min

Summarize today's theme.

Through these units we hope to become familiar with the vocations to which God calls people so that you will be able to follow his call always. Right now, you are in the single state of life, but someday God may call you to a particular vocation—married life, priesthood, or religious life. Today's focus is on priesthood.

SIMPLE PRAYER

2 min

Let's draw near to God during today's lesson. Read Luke 9:1-2.

"He summoned the Twelve and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick." – LUKE 9:1-2

POSSIBLE PRAYER:

Thank you, Lord, for the healings you do even today. Thank you for using priests and other people in the good work you do. AMEN.

PRIESTHOOD

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ACTIVITY

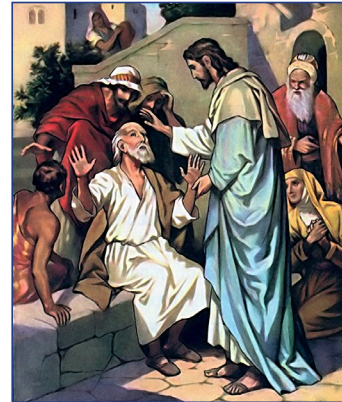
JESUS HEALS

Think of some of the miracles in the Bible where Jesus heals people. With a few other students, pretend to act out the miracle.

Here are a few examples:



Jesus heals a paralyzed man (Luke 5:18)



Jesus heals a blind man (Mark 10:46)



Jesus raises a girl from the dead (Luke 8:40)

VOCATION LESSONS | 2nd Grade: Priesthood

MAIN CONCEPTS

5 min

- A priest is someone who celebrates Mass. This is a special thing because only a priest can celebrate Mass. He brings us Jesus in the Eucharist and reminds us of Jesus at the Last Supper.
- A priest prays for healing for people through the sacrament of anointing of the sick. Sometimes there are miracles, and the person is healed.
- A priest teaches people about Jesus. Priests teach us during the homily at Mass. Some teach in the classroom, at Bible studies, or religious education classes. Priests also teach casually in conversations with people and during confession.

ACTIVITY

10 min

One of the things a priest does is pray to heal people. This happens in the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, but it also can happen anytime a person asks for prayer from a priest. Often a person's body is still sick or hurting after prayer, but their soul has been healed. Other times, a miracle happens, and their body is healed too. Jesus healed people, and that is why priests do too. Let's think of the times when Jesus healed a person in the Gospel.

1. Together, think of different Gospel passages in which Jesus healed people. See examples in student section.
2. Pick students to act out one of the miracles.
3. Repeat with other healing miracles if time allows.

JESUS HEALS

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Here are a few examples:

Jesus heals a paralyzed man (Luke 5:18)

Refer to painting of the Paralytic Man Healed.

Jesus heals a blind man (Mark 10:46)

Refer to painting of Blind Bartimaeus.

Jesus raises a girl from the dead (Luke 8:40)

Refer to painting of Raising The Daughter of Jairus by Janet Scott.

READING

15 min

1. Introduce the story.
2. Have students read "The Pope of Little Children" individually, in small groups or as a class and then discuss the reflection questions and any of your own.

PRIESTHOOD

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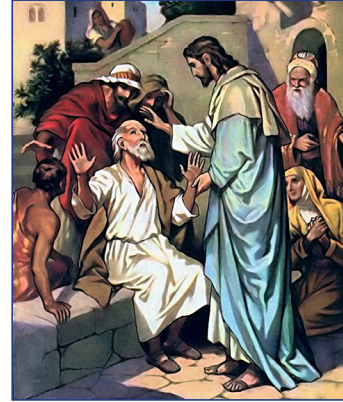
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VOCATION LESSONS | 2nd Grade: Priesthood

INTRODUCTION

Is the Pope a priest? Yes! He's the priest who takes care of all the priests and people in the world. The story you are about to hear will tell you a little bit about what one of the popes was like when he was a little boy and some of the things that happened to him after he was a priest. This is about St. Pius X who was pope about 100 years ago.

BE CURIOUS/DISCUSS

- What were the things in Beppo's childhood which showed that he was already saying "yes" to God?
- What kind of things did Fr. Sarto do as priest and pope? (sample answers: say Mass, teach, heal, listen)
- Beppo walked to school barefoot because he wanted his shoes to last longer. What kinds of sacrifices can a second grader today make?
- What kinds of things do people need healing from today?
- Have you ever gone to priest for help? Would you like to?

THE POPE OF LITTLE CHILDREN

Excerpted from Saints of the Eucharist by Father Francis

“Oh, Father, thank you for these new shoes!” cried Beppo. This was Beppo’s first new pair of shoes in twelve years. No wonder he was so happy. “I shall always take good care of them, too,” thought Beppo. “And they will last longer if I carry them to school. I can put them on when I get there. No one will know I walked to school barefooted.”

And so it was that on warm days little Beppo would often be seen walking the four miles to school carrying his shoes.

Each morning Beppo started the day right by going to Mass...

Refer to image of the little boy pretending to celebrate Mass.

One could often hear him whisper this prayer, “Mother of God, I love you. Please help me to be a priest some day. I wish to bring all people and all things to Christ, your Son. I know He would be happy. So please help me, dear Mary!”

Little Beppo loved the Mass so much that he even made an altar at home. Here he was often found playing “priest.” He tried to say Mass as the parish priest did. His little brother and sisters would come to his Mass. But how carefully they watched and prayed!

...

Like many other boys and girls of long ago, Beppo had to wait long to make his First Holy Communion. Sometimes he would joke with the other children saying, “When I am Pope someday I will change that rule. I will allow children to receive Jesus even when they are very young. Jesus will make them strong and keep them pure.” Then he would run away laughing at his funny thoughts. Little did Beppo dream that someday God would really make him a pope—the pope of little children.



PRIESTHOOD

READING

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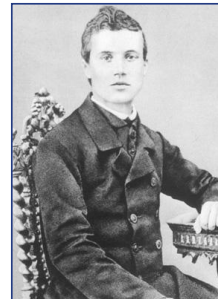


A little boy pretends to celebrate Mass.

...

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Soon Beppo went to study to become a priest. The people of his town helped to pay for all he needed. They knew how poor his family was...



A young Fr. Sarto

The big day came. Beppo was now a priest. How happy his family and friends were! ... Father Sarto, as he was now called, loved to teach little children about God. He loved to prepare them for their First Holy Communion. He would often say, “What pleases me most is to see people coming up to receive Jesus.”

Many years passed by and soon Father Sarto became a bishop. Not long after, he was made pope. He cried when he got the news because he did not think he was holy enough. Beppo chose the name Pope Pius X. Now he was ruler of the whole Catholic Church.

One day a man brought his little son to see the pope. “Dear Holy Father, my little son heard the good news about receiving Holy Communion. He wishes to receive his First Holy Communion, too, but he is only four years old.”



A boy receives First Communion from the pope.

The Holy Father picked up the little boy and put him on his lap. “Let us see what you know, little one.” The pope asked, “Who comes to you in Holy Communion?”

“Why, It is Jesus!” said the boy quickly.

Soon Beppo went to study to become a priest. The people of his town helped to pay for all he needed. They knew how poor his family was...

Refer to image of a young Fr. Sarto.

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READING *continued*

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“Why, It is Jesus!” said the boy quickly.

“And who is Jesus?” the Holy Father asked again.

“He is God and I love Him,” said the little boy.

Refer to image of a boy receiving First Communion from the pope.

“Your little boy is old enough to receive Holy Communion,” the pope said, turning to the little boy’s father. “Bring your little boy to my Mass tomorrow morning. I myself will give him his First Holy Communion. He is ready.”

Pope Pius X did many great and holy things. Even while he was alive God let him work some miracles...

A father carried his little son to the pope. His boy had never walked or stood up in his life. He was this way since he was born. The poor father wanted Pius X to help his little boy.

“Let me hold your little son,” asked the pope as he took the boy. “I will pray to God to help him.”

After a short time the boy asked the pope to let him down. He began to run around the room calling, “I can run! I can run! Oh, thank you, dear Holy Father!” Everyone in the world heard about this miracle, too.

Now Pope Pius X is Saint Pius X.

Refer to image of Pope Saint Pius X.



PRIESTHOOD

READING *continued*

“And who is Jesus?” the Holy Father asked again.

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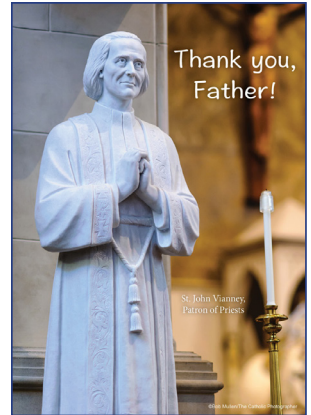
Now Pope Pius X is Saint Pius X.



Pope Saint Pius X.

EXPLORATION

Write a note of encouragement or draw a picture for one of your local priests.



VOCATION LESSONS | 2nd Grade: Priesthood 3

REINFORCE

- Display the main concepts on the board.
- Have the students verbally repeat them, write them down or ask questions about them.
- Quiz the students a bit to see if they grasp the statements. Answer questions. If it is helpful, refer to the Vocation Glossary found at www.vocationlessons.com/glossary.

5 min

EXPLORATION

NOTE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

1. Brainstorm together—What can a second grader say that would encourage a priest?
2. Have the students write a note of encouragement or draw a picture for one of the local priests.
3. Collect the notes, and later deliver them to the priest.

Refer to sample image of a card for Father.

10 min

VISUAL ART

5 min

1. Display “Institution of the Eucharist” by Fra Angelico.
 2. Direct students to study the painting in light of today’s theme.
 3. Discuss the reflection questions below as a class.
- What is happening in this picture?
 - Who are the people?
 - What are the disciples doing with their hands? Why?
 - Why are some people kneeling?
 - What gift is Jesus giving his apostles?
 - How is this “First Communion” like your First Communion?

MEDITATIVE PRAYER

5 min

1. Introduce the meditation.
Now is the time to listen to the word of God. Let God’s peace come to you. As you listen and reflect, you may close your eyes.
2. Slowly read John 5:2-9. Pause in between phrases for quiet contemplation.
“Now there is in Jerusalem... a pool... with five porticoes. In these lay a large number of ill, blind, lame, and crippled. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been ill for a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be well?” The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; while I am on my way, someone else gets down there before me.” Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your mat, and walk.” Immediately the man became well, took up his mat, and walked.” – JOHN 5:2-9
3. Help the students to reflect on this scripture and on their own lives.
“Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been ill for a long time.” Just as Jesus knows the past of that crippled man, so also he knows what we have been through and how we are feeling. Jesus asks the



PRIESTHOOD

VISUAL ART



“Institution of the Eucharist,” by Fra Angelico

MEDITATIVE PRAYER

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– JOHN 5:2-9

PRAY TOGETHER

Vocation Prayer

I say yes like Mary,
And give you my heart.
To follow you Jesus,
I will do my part.
Help me follow your will
No matter the call.
Whatever vocation,
I promise my all.
AMEN.

VOCATION LESSONS | 2nd Grade: Priesthood 4

man, “Do you want to be well?” Imagine him asking you that. In what way would you like to be well? In what ways, big and small, has Jesus made you well already?

VOCAL PRAYER

2 min

1. Direct the students to look over the Vocation Prayer.
God will call you to a wonderful vocation, but only God knows what that is. Right now he is very happy with you as a child. Through this prayer, let us say “yes” to our vocation now and in the future.
2. If the students are not familiar with the Vocation Prayer, then read a line of the prayer, and have the children repeat it. Continue with all the lines.
3. Read the Vocation Prayer all together.