

YEAR 8—MODULE 1—VOCATION AND MARRIAGE

Topic 1: VOCATION

What is a vocation?

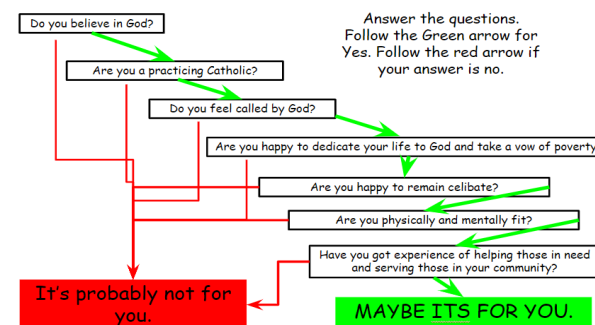
A vocation is often referred to as a life-long calling. It is something you feel called to do. Often this involves some form of service to others.

People often say they had a vocation to become a nurse, social worker, charity worker teacher or a police officer. These are not jobs that people go into for the money (since they are not the best paid) but people do it because they want to help others.

What is a Catholic vocation?

In the Catholic Church when we look at vocation we mean a calling to dedicate our lives to God. We pray at Mass for those listening to God's call to become Priests, monks and nuns and take up their Holy Orders.

Priests, monks and nuns do not get paid, instead they do it because God wills them to do so and they have a desire to help others.



KEY WORDS

Religious experience - direct contact with God

Vocation - being called by God to follow a particular path

Ordination - Taking Holy orders and becoming a priest, monk or nun

Monastery - A Christian community of monks

Convent - A Christian community of nuns



RESPONSIBILITIES OF ONE PARISH PRIEST



What examples can we find in The Bible?

Noah and Moses were also called by God to follow a particular path.

Noah answered God's call to build the ark even though others laughed at him.

Moses answered God's call to return to Egypt to free the Israelites from slavery. Moses was worried he would not be up to the job but God assured him that he would give the strength needed to persuade the Pharaoh.

What examples can we find beyond The Bible?

Mother Teresa was on a train to Darjeeling when she had a call from God to work with the Indian people suffering in the slums of Calcutta. She started the Missionaries of Charity and dedicated her life to treating the sick, feeding the hungry and homeless and supporting those who had nothing and no one to help them. She said the way to achieve peace was to start with kindness to those around us.

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Topic 2: VALUES AND MARRIAGE

What is a Catholic marriage?

Marriage is a sacrament in the Catholic Church and not only a promise between the man and woman but also with God. Catholics view marriage and parenthood as a vocation. It has to be carefully considered so they take marriage preparation classes to ensure that they are making the choice.

What is the importance of Catholic marriage?

Marriage in the catholic church has four key elements.

Life giving—children have to be a possibility

Permanent—there is no religious divorce in the catholic church

Sacrament—God’s grace is given and He is a part of the union

Exclusive—The couple are faithful to each other and have no other romantic relationships.

These elements are shown in the wedding service with rings for eternity, vows to stay faithful “until death do us part” and performed in a church before a priest.

How much do you know about... Islamic marriage?

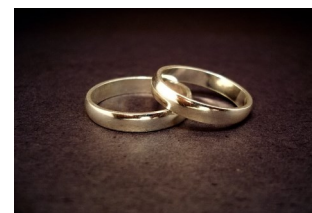
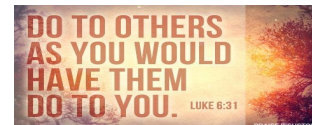
Many Muslims rely on their parents to find them a spouse. This is because Islam does not permit mixing of the sexes before marriage. This is known as an arranged marriage.

Many brides choose to dress in red (to symbolise fertility). The groom can dress in whichever colour he likes so long as it is modest. Often it is white.

Both the man and woman must agree to each others terms and conditions before they marry—this is a marriage contract called a nikah.

At the Nikah ceremony the Imam will read verses from the Quran, he will remind people about the characteristics of the Prophet towards his wives. He will explain and remind people about the essence of marriage

A mahr is a gift given to the bride by the groom. It can either take the form of money or property. The wife can choose to keep it or give it back if the couple divorce.



The 10 Commandments

Do not worship any other Gods

Do not set up false idols

Do not misuse God’s name

Keep the Sabbath holy

Honour you father and mother

Do not kill

Do not commit adultery

Do not lie

Do not steal

Do not be jealous

KEY WORDS

Sacrament—A visible sign of God’s grace or presence

Catholic Marriage—A sacrament (God’s grace) and the legal union of a man and a woman.

Faithfulness—only having a relationship with your husband or wife

Adultery—Having a relationship with someone who is not your husband/wife.

Nikah: an Islamic contract signed by the husband and wife to acknowledge each others rights

Mahr: Money or property given by the husband to the wife as a gift in an Islamic marriage.

Walima: A feast which takes place some days after the Islamic marriage ceremony

What were Jesus’ values?

In the Gospels Jesus constantly promotes several values that as Catholics we aim to follow and live out in our daily lives. These are:

Love – Love for God and Love for each other. He taught us agape love – love which means we have to sacrifice things for others.

Forgiveness – Jesus teaches us to forgive those ‘who trespass against us’. If we want to be forgiven we must forgive others.

Compassion – We should not just take pity on people, but help them out when they are in need.

Respect – Jesus respected everyone, the old, the sick, the outcast, criminals and sinners.

Truth – Jesus taught us to be honest and live true lives to our Faith.