

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks Jesus' initiation into public ministry. At his baptism Jesus is named the Beloved Son of God. With this celebration we recommit ourselves to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Initiated through our baptism we too are commissioned to proclaim Good News with our lives.

The observance of *National Vocation Awareness Week (NVAW)* began in 1976 when the National Conference of Catholic Bishops designated the 28th Sunday of the year as the beginning of *NVAW*. In 1997 this celebration was moved to coincide with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

NCCV promotes all Catholic Church vocations. This NVAW kit is designed to assist preachers, teachers, catechists, and other ministers. By fostering a culture of vocations, the Church is strengthened in its universal call to holiness. May this resource meet your particular needs and enhance your local celebration.



NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

January 10-16, 2010

PLANNING KIT

PRIMARY (1-3)

Scripture for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

CYCLE C

- Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
- Psalm 29:1-4, 9-10
- Acts 10:34-38
- Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

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PRIMARY LESSON PLANS

Baptized in the Spirit

LESSON ONE *Baptism of the Lord*

Objective: To help students understand the signs of the sacrament of Baptism.

Preparation: Duplicate Activity 1, confirm use of baptismal area, invite parish priest to join you.

Process: Take the children to the parish church and the baptismal area. Show them the signs/symbols used at a baptism (baptismal font, oil, candle, holy water, white garment, Easter candle). Explain what each sign means. Read the Bible story of the Baptism of Jesus (Luke 3:15, 21-22). Discuss how important it was for Jesus to be baptized so he could teach and share God's life with others. Invite your parish priest to join you and provide helpful information. When the children are back in their classrooms, encourage them to ask their parents about their baptism and if they have any pictures, a candle, etc. from their special day and invite them to bring them to school. Hand out Activity 1. While they are completing the activity, play the song: *Holy, Holy Water (Kids Sing for Jesus, The Rennas, AvilaRose, Inc., WLP. Available from NCCV).*

LESSON TWO *Jesus Wants Us to Spread the Good News*

Objective: To discuss and share ways we can spread the Christian message to others.

Preparation: Duplicate Activity 2, prepare prayer space, provide candle and bible.

Process: Gather the children in a large circle around a prayer center that includes a candle and a Bible. Review Lesson 1. Ask for volunteers to show the baptismal items they have brought from home. Display these in the prayer center. Invite children to say their first name and remind them that this is the name God calls them and the one they received at their baptism. Discuss ways that, as baptized children of God, they spread the good news with those they meet each day. Discuss the special activities they have shared in during the year such as: food for the poor, rice bowls, drawing birthday cards for the elderly in the parish, visiting a nursing home, etc. Connect their giving by reading and discussing *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein. Distribute Activity 2. After the children have finished, have them cut the strips apart and decorate them. Staple the strips inside one another forming a "Good News Chain". You may add to this chain during the year. The activity and story "linked" together help children understand their call as Christians. Conclude this session by singing: *This Little Light of Mine* or *Jump Up, Get Down (Kids Sing for Jesus, The Rennas, AvilaRose, Inc., WLP. Available from NCCV).*

ACTIVITY 1
Celebrating Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism celebrates our becoming friends with Jesus.
When we are baptized, we become Christians and enter into the Christian family.

There are special signs that are used during Baptism. Draw these special signs and label them
with the following words: Easter candle, white garment, candle, holy water, oil, Bible.

