

Chapter 18

Called to Serve

Tend the flock of God in your midst, willingly, as God would have it.

1 Peter 5:2

For the Parent:

In chapter 18 your child learned to:

- Explain how Jesus wants his followers to serve others
- Describe how bishops, priests, and deacons serve God’s People
- Consider the vocation God is calling him or her to live

Jesus chose Apostles from among his faithful followers. Church tradition has followed Jesus by ordaining deacons, priests, and bishops. As the Apostles were called to lead and to serve, members of the Church community are called and ordained to serve others by teaching, leading, and celebrating the sacraments—bringing forward the reign of God.

There are three degrees of orders: bishop, priest, and deacon. Deacons are either transitional—men who are preparing for the priesthood—or permanent—men who will remain deacons all their lives. Permanent deacons can be married at the time they are ordained. They usually continue their ordinary work and lifestyle, but serve the Church by caring for the sick and needy and assisting at liturgy.

A vocation is a calling, but it is also a gift. It is an invitation, an opportunity to use the unique combination of gifts received from God and developed by you to serve God and the Church. It is your own way to salvation. It is a gift both for you and for others.

With Your Child:

1. Many of our best opportunities to serve are at home. Get a large can, such as a coffee can. Write “I Can Help!” on a piece of construction paper and glue the paper to the can. Invite all family members to put in slips of paper describing jobs that need to be done. Keep the can where the whole family can see it every day. When any member has a little time and a can-do attitude, they can reach in, pick a slip, and serve others joyfully!
2. Read about Charles de Foucauld on the Review and Explore page.