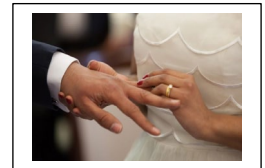


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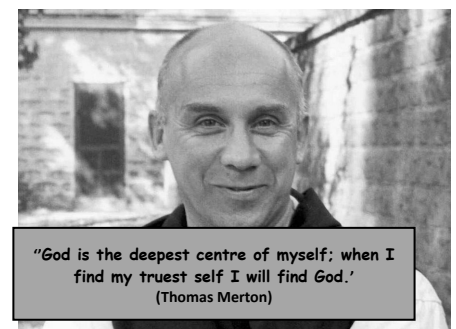
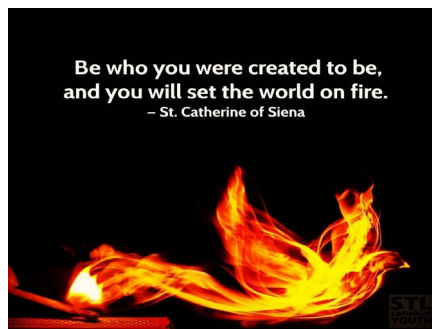
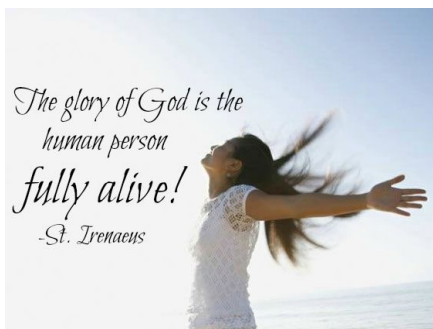
# YEAR 9 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## VOCATION



### WHAT IS VOCATION?

1. Vocation is at the heart of Catholic life. At English Martyrs we include vocation in our school prayer...
2. 'Help me to find my true vocation in life, so as to find happiness myself and bring happiness to others'...
3. Vocation is sometimes said to be a **'call from God'**... It is where we find our **'true purpose'** or our **'raison d'être'**
4. For some people their job might be their vocation for others it might be their role within the family
5. **Priesthood, marriage and living a single life** can all be seen as vocations as they involve purpose and dedication
6. The word Catholic is derived from the Greek words **'kata holos'** literally meaning 'according to the whole'
7. Finding our true vocation is about finding our true selves in order to give praise to God and live a full life
8. Jesus said **'I have come that you might have life and have it to the full'** (John 10: 10)



### THE CHURCH

9. There are many different types of vocation within the Church as people are 'called' in many different ways.
10. St Paul said **'as the body is one and consisting of many parts, so it is with the body of Christ'** (1 Cor 12: 27)
11. St Paul stresses the point when he says that the body could not function the same if missing an eye or a foot...
12. Each person is a unique and special part of the 'whole'. In this way no vocation is more or less important.
23. The clergy are members of the Church who have been ordained for a particular ministry (priest or deacon etc.)
24. The laity are members of the Christian community who have not been ordained for special ministry in the Church



*The hierarchy of the Catholic Church shows that the Pope is at the top and that his authority is passed down. In reality this structure would make more sense upside down as the Pope is in actual fact the servant of the Church. Jesus Christ is often referred to as 'the Servant King'. He did not come to be served but to serve. The vocation of those in the Church is to serve those around them.*

*English Martyrs School motto is 'ut omnes unum sint' meaning 'may they all be one.' These words were spoken by Jesus as He wished for all people to exist in the same unity as between Him and the Father. A vocation is a calling to fulfil a certain role and live a particular type of life as a part of this Church community. 'Those who wish to save their life will lose it but those prepared to lose their lives for me will find it' (Matthew 16: 25)*

## PRIESTHOOD

11. Priesthood is a special vocation in which a person is called to serve the Church and **administer the sacraments**...
12. Priests are there to offer strength and support to us at the lowest and the most vulnerable times in our lives...
13. Priests are also there to celebrate with us at the most special times for example when we marry or have children
14. Catholic priests have authority through the **apostolic succession** to **consecrate** the bread and the wine in Mass...
15. Apostolic succession is the passing down of authority from the **Twelve Apostles** to a new generation of bishops.
16. Priesthood was **instituted** at the **Last Supper** when Jesus said '**do this in remembrance of me**' (Luke 22: 19).
17. Catholic priests are **ordained by Bishops** through the sacrament of **Holy Orders**.



1. In the Catholic Church priests must be male because Jesus only instituted men at his Last Supper.
2. Men and women have equal but set separate roles within the Church and this is part of the Church's tradition.
3. Many from other Christian denominations disagree with this as Jesus always treated men and women equally.
4. St Paul also said '**there is no longer male or female for all are one in Jesus Christ**' (Galatians 3: 28)
5. Catholic priests must also be celibate meaning they should never enter into sexual relationships and get married
6. This is because Jesus loved all people equally and gave his life for all people. He never chose one person over all.
7. Many from other Christian denominations disagree pointing to the fact that the first apostles were married.
8. In the Catholic Church priests can either serve a parish within a diocese or be part of a religious community.

## RELIGIOUS LIFE

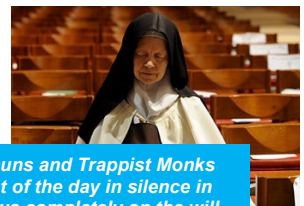
9. Some people choose to devote their entire lives to God and join **religious communities** as **monks** or as **nuns**.
10. **Benedictines** follow the rule of religious life set out by St Benedict. **Franciscans** follow the rule of St Francis etc.
11. Some religious communities are **secluded** meaning they keep away from outside distractions and wider society.
12. Others engage with the difficulties in society such as the **Missionaries of Charity** founded by **Mother Theresa**.
13. Monks and Nuns take the **evangelical counsels** which are vows of **poverty, chastity and obedience**.
14. Monks and nuns pray throughout the day using the **divine office** which is a collection of the **Book of Psalms**.
15. Religious communities pray between five and seven times a day e.g. '**Vespers**' are often sung in the afternoon.



Franciscans wear brown robes to show that they are a member of the Franciscan Community. Franciscans live simple lives without any possessions like St Francis of Assisi.



The Missionaries of Charity work in some of the world's poorest areas helping street children and lepers following the example of Mother Theresa



Carmelite nuns and Trappist Monks spend most of the day in silence in order to focus completely on the will of God within their own lives

## CHARITY WORK

16. Many people devote their lives to supporting causes they believe in. This work can be voluntary meaning unpaid.
17. CAFOD (**Catholic Agency For Overseas Development**) is a Catholic charity within **CARITAS** International.
18. CAFOD seeks to support people in poorer countries. It works to abolish all forms of **global injustice**.
19. This charity provides emergency aid to people caught in natural disasters or caught up in wars and conflicts.
20. Many people devote enormous amounts of their time and energy fundraising and raising awareness for CAFOD.
21. The SVP (**Saint Vincent De Paul Society**) is an example of a Catholic charity which works on a **national level**.
22. The SVP helps to support and protect **vulnerable groups** of people within our local communities.
23. The SVP helps the housebound with basic day-to-day tasks and families going through financial difficulties.



## PARENTHOOD

24. For many in society parenthood is their vocation as they devote themselves to bringing up their children.
25. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that the family is the **‘Church in miniature.’**
26. The faith is nurtured primarily within the family. Parents are the first teachers of their children.
27. Parenthood can be incredibly challenging and parents often make sacrifices for the good of their children
28. **Mary and Joseph** are the perfect examples of what it is to be a loving parent within the Church.
29. Many see being a good mother or father to be their vocation. They put their children before themselves.

## SINGLE LIFE

30. Being single can also be a vocation as many find joy in their **freedom and friendships** with others.
31. A true vocation enables a person to be their best possible self... Not everybody wants a relationship!
32. Many Catholics who choose to live a single life remain celibate and devote themselves to their faith.
33. Some choose professions such as the services, health care or education to bring happiness to others.
34. Others may be passionate about the arts, cooking, music or sport. A vocation gives our lives meaning.
35. **Marriage and Ordination** are the **two sacraments of vocation** but some focus on other areas of life.
36. For some people simply being a good friend, son or daughter, brother or sister might be their vocation.



*Cardinal John Henry Newman was canonised last year making him into a saint. St John Henry Newman once said ‘God has created me to do Him some definite service’. He taught that vocation is about responding to God’s call. God creates each of us out of love and so it does not make sense that He would create any of us to be unhappy. When we find our true vocation we find our God given purpose. It is only in finding our true vocation that we can be truly happy as our souls will remain restless up until this point. It is when we find our true vocations that we are able to find our true selves and live our lives to the full.*

37. Pope Francis explains that faith can be seen as **‘a journey’** into the presence of God’s everlasting love.
38. Choosing to be happy and accepting our true vocation is not a selfish decision.
39. Finding happiness can be difficult and may at times involve considerable degrees of self-sacrifice.
40. This is the call to be Christian... Jesus said **‘take up your cross and follow me’** (Matthew 16: 24).
41. Accepting our true vocations is not easy but it does lead to happiness and living our lives to the full.
42. Jesus said **‘My peace I leave you my peace I give you’** (John 14: 27). Our souls find rest in God.
43. In the words of the Christian mystic Thomas Merton **‘when I find my truest self I will find God.’**

## KEY TERMS:

Vocation	A response to a call from God to live a full and happy life.
Kata Holos	Derived from the Greek meaning, ‘according to the whole’
Raison d’être	A person’s reason for being or divine purpose
Marriage	A sacrament of vocation where one finds Christ in another person
Ordination	A sacrament of vocation where one finds Christ in all members of the community
Diocese	An area within the Church under the authority of a Catholic Bishop
Religious Order	A group of monks or nuns living together in community
Consecration	When a Catholic priest makes Christ truly present in the Eucharist
Transubstantiation	The process by which bread and wine turn into the body and blood of Jesus Christ
Divine Office	A selection of prayers read every day by religious people from the Book of Psalms
Evangelical Counsels	Vows taken by members of religious communities
Poverty	A vow undertaken to give up all Earthly possessions
Chastity	A vow undertaken to never enter into a sexual relationship
Obedience	A vow undertaken to be faithful to the order and accept Church authority
Mystic	A person who has a special understanding of God’s works and revelations