

# PARENT / GUARDIAN CONNECTION

## EIGHTH GRADE: TOB UNIT 1

### THEME: VOCATION AND GIFT

#### SOW THE SEED



Dear Parents,

In this Theology of the Body (TOB) unit, your child will dive deeply into the theme **Vocation and Gift**.

From all eternity, God has a vision for our lives and prepares a path for us and invites us to grow into His plan. Pope St. John Paul II called the plan God has for our lives our “vocation,” which comes from the Latin word *vocare*, which means “to call.” The call to holiness, which means the fullness, perfection or completion of who we are through our love of God and neighbor, is the first and fundamental vocation of the human person. Because of original sin and our tendency to choose bad things, it is often hard to see and choose what is best. God our creator, sees, knows and loves us better than we do.

In this Unit, your child will read the story of Jesus calling his Apostles to follow him (Mark 1:16-20 and 3:13-19). God gives each of us a special mission that is unique, unrepeatable and irreplaceable, and calls us to live that mission in our state of life. Pope St. John Paul II writes that the two states of life that God calls us to are: the sacrament of marriage or virginity/celibacy for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Both states of life involve sacred vows that will form us for the rest of our lives into holy people.

As the lessons unfold, the class will participate in an activity which fosters awareness of one's gifts/talents/desires of the heart, which are ‘clues’ that God gives to us in our path of life. Pope St. John Paul II understood vocation as both what God wants for me and the desires of my heart working mysteriously together, not as a choice between what I want, or what God wants, but both leading me to discover my path in life.

#### GERMINATE THE SEED



#### FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What talents and special gifts do you have? What hobbies/interests bring you great joy? Why?  
*\*(Note to parents: It is important to be aware of the desires of our heart and to take these to God in conversational prayer).*





**FAMILY ACTIVITY:**

Favorite Things — Each family member suggests an activity for a “Family Fun Night” (or nights) that reflects their personality/talents/interests, but that is reasonable for all to participate.

**FAMILY PRAYER:**

Discernment Prayer (Sisters of Notre Dame) — Walk with me, good and loving God, as I journey through life. May I take Your hand and be led by Your Holy Spirit. Fill me, inspire me, free me to respond generously to Your call. For I believe You desire my deepest joy, and it is only in Your company that my soul will be satisfied, and my life will find its meaning and purpose.

Amen. St. Isaac Jogues, pray for us!

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Want to learn more? Visit [RuahWoodsInstitute.org/parents](https://RuahWoodsInstitute.org/parents) to view a TOB parent presentation.

