



DOES THE BODY GOOD

LIFE NIGHT PLANNING SHEET

DATE

GOAL FOR THIS NIGHT

To explain and affirm the purpose of the priesthood within the framework of the papacy and apostolic succession.

ABOUT THIS NIGHT

This LIFE Night gives teens the opportunity to learn about the hierarchy of the Church: (papacy, episcopacy, and priesthood). The teens have an opportunity to bond with their own parish priest and to advance the mission of the Church through the recognition of their place in the Church. Lay people, we brainstorm ways of building the Body of Christ and then sent out with tangible ways. The teens have an opportunity to write to their priest(s) a letter of gratitude and encouragement as Shepherds of our Faith.

ENVIRONMENT

The room is set as the stereotypical "health/ P.E. classroom." To sell the idea, the room (desks and chalkboard) is decorated with cheesy posters about well-being. Hang a huge poster of the food pyramid. Show health films (from the 70's or 80's) as the teens enter into the room. Have some of the CORE team are dressed with sweatbands on their heads and in cheesy, but modest, workout attire.

LIFE NIGHT TEAM

SAINTS

St. John Vianney
St. Peter
St. Ignatius Antioch

BIBLE

Rom 10:14-15
Rom 10:17
Phil 2:7
Cor 9:19
Jn 17:21-23
Mark 16:15
Jn 21:15-17

CATECHISM

871-896, 1554-1571

GATHER | 10 MINUTES

INTRODUCTIONS | 5 MINUTES

The beginning of the night is facilitated by an eccentric health teacher (combine every stereotype imaginable – just make sure there is a whistle involved). This character welcomes everyone to his/her class, introduce new people, and get the night started.

FOOD PYRAMID CONTEST | 5 MINUTES

The "teacher" leads the icebreaker as teens get into "teams." Each team is given a tray of food (something from each food group). The team must form a human food pyramid, putting the foods in the correct spot – give prizes to the team who finished first and to the most creative pyramid.

PROCLAIM | 15 MINUTES

DOES THE BODY GOOD

See attached talk outline

BREAK | 30 MINUTES

PRIEST SHARING | 20 MINUTES

The Youth Minister invites one of the parish's priests to give a sharing about his life as a priest and his understanding of his role in the Church. The teens are then given the opportunity to ask Father questions about his life as a priest.

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST | 10 MINUTES

The Youth Minister leads an open brainstorming session on ways that we as lay members, can advance the Church mission. As the teenagers are suggesting actions, have a CORE Member writes them down on a dry erase board or large sheet of paper. Make sure suggestions are tangible and practical for teen to do during the upcoming week. Print up the suggestions, individually cut them, and then handed out to the teens at the end of the night.

31





SEND | 20 MINUTES

PRIEST LETTERS | 10 MINUTES

The teens are asked to write a letter to one of the priests in their parish. This should be a letter of affirmation and support. The Youth Minister will provide some structure to the letter by giving the teenagers a brief description of all the things that the priest does behind the scenes that they might not see.

PRAYER FOR OUR SHEPHERDS | 5 MINUTES

The night ends with the teens praying for their priests, their bishop, and our Holy Father. End with the Hail Mary and Ave Maria.

LAY MISSION | 5 MINUTES

Print the suggestions from the session of "Building the Body," individually cut, and distribute one suggestion per teen as they leave the room. The Youth Minister challenges the teens to do what is on the piece of paper sometime during the week.

TEACHING: DOES THE BODY GOOD

Note: This talk is set in the context of a Phys. Ed class. Make sure you pull out all the stops in the Gather – play up the character sketches as much as you can – the humor will go along way for the night. The talk can get pretty serious, so the levity at the beginning will help. We've tried to add some spots where you can lighten things up a bit, but the end gets pretty sober again as you deal with the scandals that have happened in the Church and how we need to deal with them. Keep the context of the talk in light of the "Big Picture" like we talked about on the opening night of the semester. Everything this semester is a part of God's plan and breaking that plan open, piece-by-piece.

I. On Who's Authority!?

A. You see all these health posters, all this advice – what food you should eat, what things are healthy for you, what thing aren't, what exercises you should do, etc.

B. So why do we listen to all this? Why do we listen to them? Why do we allow the people who come up with this stuff to have so much authority?

1. Why do doctors and health experts have so much authority?

2. Isn't it because we put trust in the "license" they bear? Every doctor, every health expert has a number of state or even federal boards that review their credentials, their work, their statements – to ensure that what they do is true and above-standards.

3. We trust in this system, we trust the review boards – that when we go to a "doctor" that someone has made sure this person is truly the expert they make themselves out to be. The authority they have, has been vested in them, by other authorities.

1. And in fact, if we couldn't trust in this system, health-care would turn into total chaos

B. Good health, good eating habits, good exercise, a balanced diet – does the body good!

C. And what is true with medical authority is also true of the Church and Spiritual authority

1. The authority the Pope has, the authority a bishop has, the authority a priest has – it has all been vested in them, by other authorities!

2. And in fact, the Catholic Church, who gets the most criticism of any organized religion about their "so-called" authority, is the only Christian denomi-



Try to take some of the energy of the gather into the beginning of the talk – maybe the teacher character stays out for the beginning and you talk with them through this first part, almost acting it out

nation that can trace its authority back to the person of Jesus

3. We believe, and can physically trace, the authority of the Pope, the bishops and priests all the way back to Jesus and the first Apostles



The understanding of Apostolic Succession would be one of the essentials of this talk take your time to get it across completely

II. Apostolic Succession

A. Let's get a glimpse of what the Church calls "Apostolic Succession"

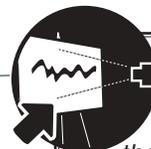
1. Basically, this means what I just said – we can traced this authority all the way back to Jesus

2. But more specifically – the Church recognizes this authority as granted and imparted by Christ Himself

a. "In order that the mission entrusted to them might be continued after their death, the apostles consigned, by will and testament, as it were, to their immediate collaborators the duty of completing and consolidating the work they had begun, urging them to tend to the whole flock, in which the Holy Spirit had appointed them to shepherd the Church of God. They accordingly designated such men and then made the ruling that likewise on their death other proven men should take over their ministry." CCC #861

b. "Just as the office which the Lord confided to Peter alone, as first of the apostles, destined to be transmitted to his successors, is a permanent one, so also endures the office, which the apostles received, of shepherding the Church, a charge destined to be exercised without interruption by the sacred order of bishops." Hence the Church teaches that "the bishops have by divine institution taken the place of the apostles as pastors of the Church, in such wise that whoever listens to them is listening to Christ and whoever despises them despises Christ and him who sent Christ." CCC #862

c. "In order that the full and living Gospel might always be preserved in the Church the apostles left bishops as their successors. They gave them their own position of teaching authority." Indeed, "the apostolic preaching, which is expressed in a special way in the inspired books, was to be preserved in a continuous line of succession until the end of time." CCC #77



You may want to have these references printed on a handout, or on a PowerPoint slide so everyone can see them

d. "Accordingly, just as Christ was sent by the Father so also he sent the apostles, filled with the Holy Spirit. This he did so that they might preach the Gospel to every creature and proclaim that the Son of God by his death and resurrection had freed us from the power of Satan and from death and brought us into the Kingdom of his Father. But he also willed that the work of salvation which they preached should be set in train through the sacrifice and sacraments, around which the entire liturgical life revolves." Thus the risen Christ, by giving the Holy Spirit to the apostles, entrusted to them his power of sanctifying: they became sacramental signs of Christ. By the power of the same Holy Spirit they entrusted this power to their successors. This "apostolic succession" structures the whole liturgical life of the Church and is itself sacramental, handed on by the sacrament of Holy Orders. . . . is present in the earthly liturgy . . . CCC #1086-87

3. You start to see – an UNBROKEN line of SUCCESSION – all the way back to Christ and the first Apostles

4. Every Pope, every Bishop, every Priest has had hands laid on them by someone who has had hands laid on them, by someone who has had hands laid on them by one of the first Apostles, who had hands laid on them by Peter, who had hands laid on him by Jesus

B. How this authority gets handed on

1. This "Apostolic Succession" gets handed on through the Sacrament of Holy Orders

a. In the Sacrament of Holy Orders, hands are laid on the head of the person to be ordained, and a prayer of consecration (to consecrate means to set aside) is said over them



There are some big words here from some of the catechetical references used here – you may need to talk them down a bit

b. Parts of this consecratory prayer (the prayer setting them aside – for service of God) are listed right in the catechism



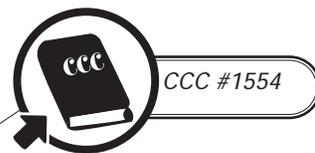
Consecratory prayer, conferred, indelible, spiritual character, imparting – these words may need to be replaced, or at least use some easier words to help translate – see in paranthe-

c. During this Sacrament, just like with Baptism and Confirmation, the one ordained has conferred (put upon them – given to them) on them an indelible (permanent, can't be taken off) spiritual character, which cannot be repeated or conferred (given to them) temporarily.



CCC #1573, 1581, 1582, 1583

d. This spiritual character (the permanent mark, the indelible mark) "changes" them, and marks them permanently, imparting to them grace – an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the gifts needed for their ministry



III. Kinds of Ordination

A. There actually are three different kinds of ordination – the Church calls them "degrees" of ordination

1. Bishop

2. Priest

3. And Deacon

a. There is not an ordination of a Pope – the Pope is a Bishop, the Bishop of Rome, and sits in the "Chair of Peter" – the Supreme Pontiff

b. Cardinals are not ordained – the title of Cardinal is actually a title of honor – a person is named to the "college of cardinals" by the Pope

c. And Monsignor is a special title of honor that can be conferred by a Bishop on one of his priests

d. So, the only three kinds, or degrees of ordination are bishop, priest and deacon

B. Bishops



1. A Bishop is the highest degree of ordination, the fullness of the sacrament of holy orders

2. The Church calls Bishops the "Episcopacy", and their ordination "Episcopal Ordination"

3. The Ordination of Bishops, Episcopal Consecration, ensures the transmission of the Apostolic line

4. And Bishops have uniquely the role of teachers and rulers – "Bishops in an eminent and visible manner, take the place of Christ himself, teacher, shepherd, and priest, and act as His representative" CCC #1558

C. Priests



CCC #1562-1568

1. Priests are special co-workers of the Bishops – to fulfill the apostolic ministry that had been entrusted to the Church by Christ
2. The Church calls the Priesthood the Presbyterate
3. Their ordination also anoints them with a special character allowing them to act in the person of Christ
4. It is primarily in the Liturgy and the consecration of the Eucharist that a Priest fills their primary ministry

D. Deacons



CCC #'s 1569-1571

1. And finally, deacons are ordained in a special way in order to serve the Bishops and Priests
2. Especially in administering the sacraments – distributing communion, assisting at and blessing marriages, proclaiming the Gospel and preaching, presiding over funerals and other ministries of charity
3. Called the Diaconate by the Church

IV. What it all means for us today

A. The Big Picture

1. Okay – you may be getting tired of us referring back to the "Big Picture" this semester – but it is so important for us to realize that everything we are learning is all a part of GOD'S PLAN – it was His plan from the beginning, and He carried out His plan with perfection
2. Because He loves us, and wants us to have every means available to be able to go to heaven and be with Him for all eternity, God gave us the Church.
3. He also wanted us to be able to trust in the authority of that Church, so Jesus passed on His authority to Peter and the first Apostles.
4. Then He made a way, through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, for them to hand that authority on, generation after generation, until the end of time

B. The Spiritual Battle for the heart and soul of our Church

1. If all this is true – then where would Satan try the hardest to attack the Church? Where could He deal the most severe blow?

2. To the Priesthood – to Bishops

3. And that is exactly what he has done – the scandal of the past year or so in the Catholic Church – which has been drawn seriously out of proportion by the media – but is still a scandal, and still a serious issue for us as a Church

4. But it has hit us right at the heart of who we are – if you can't trust a priest, if you can't trust a Bishop – then your trust in the Church as a whole is seriously in question

5. The biggest problem is that in the spotlight of the scandals, the priests, deacons and Bishops who have been faithful, holy and dedicated have been overlooked, and even ignored

C. Reclaiming the Land – Restoring the Family

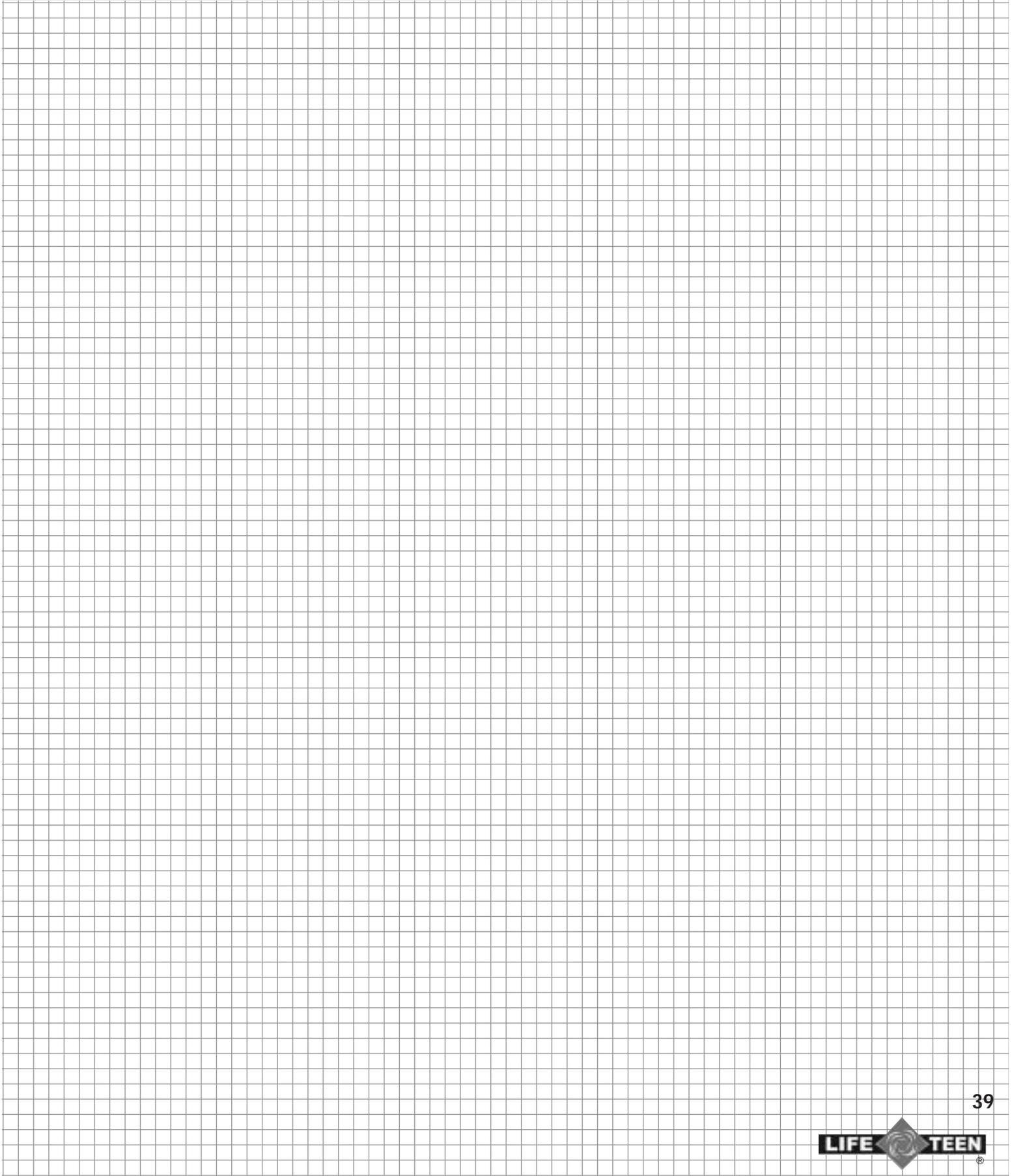
1. As a church – and as individuals we have to, we must, fight in the battle that is raging around us

2. We must deal with the scandalous behavior of those priests who have committed wrongs

3. But this must not be a hunt, where every priest and Bishop is somehow suspect

4. We have to reclaim the land that has been taken over the past couple years, and more importantly, we have to restore our family, of which our Bishops and Priests are the head

ROOM PLANNING GUIDE





DOES THE BODY GOOD

LIFE NIGHT CHECKLIST

- LIFE Night planning team receives a copy of "Does the Body Good". Each member reads through the LIFE Night, scripture references, and Catechism references before the initial planning meeting.

1 MONTH PRIOR TO LIFE NIGHT

LIFE Night planning team meets, prays, and discusses the LIFE Night. The team assesses where the teens are in their faith journey and makes necessary changes and adjustments to the LIFE Night so it will reach the teens of the parish. The team decides who is responsible for the main elements in the night.

- Environment _____
- Food Pyramid Contest _____
- Talk "Does the Body Good" _____
- Contact Priest(s) for sharing _____
- Building the Body of Christ Brainstorming _____
- Priest Letters _____
- Prayer for Our Shepherds _____
- Lay Mission _____

2 WEEKS PRIOR TO LIFE NIGHT

- LIFE Night planning team turns in a detailed sheet of the night including and changes and/or adjustments to the Youth Minister, listing everyone on the team and their responsibilities.
- Teens and CORE members selected for skits/talks are chosen and given scripts/talks.



1 WEEK PRIOR TO LIFE NIGHT

- Meet with priest about sharing, question and answers, and to confirm times and loose details.
- Talks are practiced and delivered to the Youth Minister. Youth Minister gives feedback.

2-3 DAYS PRIOR TO LIFE NIGHT

- Run a dress rehearsal for the LIFE Night.
 - Who is running lights?
 - Who is running video?
 - Who is running audio?

1 DAY PRIOR TO LIFE NIGHT

- Finalize everything for the Environment.
- Purchase food for the Food Pyramid Contest (One item from each food group per small group).
- Have paper and pen/pencils ready for priest letters.

2 HOURS BEFORE MASS & LIFE NIGHT

- Set up Environment
- Team talks through night to make sure transitions are ready.
- Make sure the room is clean and presentable. Be sure all cords and cables are taped down and hidden out of the way.
- Prep the rest of the CORE on the details of the night.
- Assign CORE Members to take the lists from "Building the Body of Christ" and type, print, and individually cut to give to teens before they leave night.
- Pray for the success of the night and the teens who will attend the night. Pray over those giving a talk.