



## Creative Festivals 2010-2011

### High School Lesson Plan

*You will find that there is more material in the lesson plans this year. Knowing that "losing class time to the festivals," is a concern, please consider the rationale. First, as the children are not taught much about priests, deacons, and bishops, this theme will require more "teaching" than those of previous years. Of course, you may choose how much to offer.*

*Second, those who receive Holy Orders are charged with leading us on the path of salvation. The words of the ordination rites express this. They are to sacrifice themselves for the flock, just as Christ did, in their service to us. The lesson plans and resource materials should lead the children to a heartfelt appreciation of our deacons, priests, and bishops.*

*You are encouraged to view the material in this light and to consider scheduling more than one class session to present the lesson. You might wish to include the MP3 downloads we have provided (interviews with a priest and a deacon) as a part of your lesson, or in the background as the students work on the art projects.*

*There are two options for presenting the lesson, "A" and "B." The Teaching Pics mentioned in "Materials" are in a separate file. We are grateful to the OCEC for permission to reprint these*

*images.  
Carole Buleza*

### Objective:

The students will be able to:

- Recall the seven Holy Mysteries.
- State that Ordination is one of the Holy Mysteries and explain what it is.
- Explain how and when the ordinations of deacon, priest, and bishop are performed.
- Teach about the ordination of either a deacon, priest, or bishop to fellow students.
- Recognize the differences and similarities between the ordinations of deacon, priest, and bishop.

**Time:** 30 minutes

### Materials:

- Teaching pics: S12, S11, S20, S4, S5, S10, S19, S17, S18
- Pencils
- highlighters
- Notebook paper
- Copies of the Background Information for Catechists.
- Copies of the Ordination Excerpts for Deacon, Priest, and Bishop
- Whiteboard/dry erase marker, blackboard/chalk, OR lined chart paper/marker

## **The Lesson Plan:**

### **Opening**

Gather the students around the icon corner for the opening prayer. Say the theme verse. Ask the students what comes to mind with this verse.

### **Introduction**

Write the words “Holy Mysteries” on the board. Ask the students to recall what a Holy Mystery is and what they know about the Holy Mysteries. The quote below, from Fr. Thomas Fitzgerald, gives some background.

“All our life and the creation of which we are an important part, points to, and reveals God. . . . [However,] there are special experiences in our corporate life as Orthodox Christians when the perception of God's presence and actions is heightened and celebrated. We call these events of the Church Sacraments. Most of the Sacraments use a portion of the material of creation as an outward and visible sign of God's revelation. Water, oil, bread and wine are but a few of the many elements which the Orthodox Church employs in her Worship. The frequent use of the material of creation reminds us that matter is good and can become a medium of the Spirit” (Fr. Thomas Fitzgerald, [goarch.org/ourfaith](http://goarch.org/ourfaith)).

Each time we participate in one of the Holy Mysteries we are strengthening our bond with God. so that we might make His power and love visible in the world.

Write seven blank lines on the board. Remind the students that in the Orthodox Church, there are seven Sacraments, or Holy Mysteries. Ask the students to recall these seven Holy Mysteries. As the students name the seven Holy Mysteries, post Teaching Pics S12, S11, S20, S4, S5, and S10 on the board, or somewhere easily visible for the students. Write the students' answers in the blanks. Tell the students that in today's lesson, they will learn more about the Holy Mystery of Ordination and use the reciprocal teaching method to learn about the Holy Orders of deacon, priest, and bishop.

### **Content/Activity A**

- Break the students into groups of three. Assign each student in the group to be an “expert” on either the deacon, priest, or bishop.
- Hand each student the Background Information for Catechists information packets, highlighters, pencils/pens, and notebook paper.
- Instruct the students to break off into three groups: the deacon group, the priest group, and the bishop group. Provide chart paper, markers, or any other tools that may aid the students when it comes time for them to return to their base group and teach those students the information they learned in their expert groups.
- Allow adequate time for the students to become “experts” on the Holy Order in which they have been specifically assigned. During this time, students in the expert groups will be reading and discussing pertinent pieces of information about the order they've been assigned to learn.
- The role of the teacher at this time is that of a facilitator. You will visit each group, guiding them to select what information they will bring back to their base group.
- Once the students have become experts, have them return to their base groups and hand them the “MVP” sheet.

- Starting with deacon, have the deacon students teach their other two group members what they learned about the deacon. Instruct the learning students to write what they think are the most valuable points under the appropriate heading on the MVP sheet.
- Repeat this teaching/learning process with the priest experts and bishop experts. When this activity is completed, each student will have been given the opportunity to teach their expert information, as well as learn the important Holy Order information from the other two experts in their group, recording the most valuable points on their MVP sheets.
- Use the students' MVPs to review the information learned and launch a post activity discussion. Discuss how they can use the valuable points on their MVP sheets as touchstones for creative arts festival poetry, writing, or art.

### **Content/Activity B**

- Tell the students that Ordination is the sacrament of Holy Orders. Ordination is accomplished by “the laying on of hands”. Show the students teaching pic S19.
- Tell the students that they will be reading excerpts from the ordination prayers for either deacon, priest, or bishop. Break apart into the same groups used in Activity A.
- Hand out copies of the appropriate Ordination Excerpts packet to each group member.
- As each expert group reads the Ordination Excerpts packet, instruct the students to highlight any part that creates an image in their mind.
- Again, just as with Activity A, the role of the teacher is facilitator. As you visit each group, guide the students in their discussion toward the visual pictures that can be created from the excerpts in the ordination packet.
- When the students are finished in their expert groups, have them return to their base group and share these parts of the ordination that create visual images.
- During the sharing/learning process, base group members should record these visual examples under the appropriate heading on the MVP sheet.
- Once the students have completed their group sharing, launch a post activity discussion pertaining to the feelings of the deacon, priest, and bishop as they experience the ordination process. Use the specific visual examples that were highlighted throughout the text. Discuss how they can use these images and feelings in their projects for the creative arts festival.

### **Closing**

#### Respect and Reverence

- Remind the students that the priests perform the Holy Mysteries so that we may be united to God. They watch over us like a shepherd watches his sheep. They are responsible for keeping us united with God.
- They come when someone is sick, no matter what time of night. They bless our homes. They hear our confessions. They say the Divine Liturgy every week. They sacrifice themselves for us, that we may stay united to God. We have great respect for the priests, deacons, and especially the bishops, which is why we kiss the hands of the bishops and priests.

Remind the students that Ordination is one of the seven Holy Mysteries, or sacraments that we may or may not partake of depending on the path our lives take. Ask them how the lesson changed any of their ideas about bishops, priests and deacons.