

Final Performance Task Options for Unit 5

Important Information for All Three Options

The following are the main ideas you are to understand from this unit. They should appear in this final performance task so your teacher can assess whether you learned the most essential content:

- Jesus Christ is the summit and perfect fulfillment of the priesthood of the Old Testament.
- Christ gave the Church authority to continue his mission through the Apostles and their successors.
- Having received the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, bishops are entrusted with the threefold mission of teaching, governing, and assisting the faithful in becoming holy.
- The Sacrament of Holy Orders includes three degrees: bishop, priest, and deacon, and each has a different role within the Church.

Option 1: An Interview with a Priest

Interview a priest on the topic of his priestly vocation. Type your interview (questions and answers) to be presented to the class and submitted to your teacher

Follow these steps in preparing for your interview:

- Choose a priest at your own parish, if possible. If you are not Catholic, ask your teacher to help you to locate a Catholic priest that you may interview.
- Consider giving the priest a copy of the questions you will ask in advance.
- Arrange a time that works for both you and the priest you will interview, keeping in mind that a priest keeps a very busy schedule. Stick to the agreed-upon schedule!

Use the following questions as a guide to developing your own interview questions. You may alter these or add others as you see fit.

1. How did you discern your vocation to become a priest?
2. What aspects of priestly ministry most attracted you?
3. Can you describe how your seminary training helped to prepare you for priestly ministry?
4. What insights from your philosophy studies are most significant for you?
5. What ideas stand out most from your theology studies?
6. Did you major in any other subject besides these two? How do you use that knowledge now?
7. What does celebrating the Sacraments—especially the Eucharist—mean to you?
8. What are your duties at the parish?
9. Describe some of the ways you promote Catholic social teaching.
10. What do you appreciate most about being a priest?



Option 2: “Adopt” a Missionary Priest Project

This option requires that you set up a relationship of support for a priest serving in a mission. This relationship could be continued, if desired, by your school after this course has ended. Responsibility for future support of the missionary priest could be continued through other religion classes, the campus ministry office, or the school itself. Or, this project should be started early enough in the semester that at least two contacts (supportive letters or material support) can be organized with and for the priest during the semester. Therefore this project must be initially organized as a group option with a minimum of five student participants, or even as a class project.

Follow these steps in establishing a relationship with a missionary priest and carrying out contacts with him:

1. Identify a priest from your general area who is serving in a mission. Religious orders and congregations such as the Jesuits and the Maryknolls have many priests working in missions. Another option is to support the work of Fr. Greg Boyle, SJ, whose gang ministry in Los Angeles, although in the United States, is nonetheless missionary work.
2. Contact the priest, or a representative from his order or community, to ask permission to “adopt” him (for a semester, or for a longer term if possible) and to obtain information about the material and spiritual needs of the mission.
3. Create an ongoing plan of support that includes such steps as:
 - gathering and sharing information about the country or region in which the priest serves
 - writing group letters of support to the missionary priest (at least twice during a semester)
 - praying for his work in the mission in class and during school prayer events, particularly at the Eucharist
 - collecting money or material goods (per his request) on a regular schedule and sending them to the mission
 - sending information to the missionary priest about the group of students who have chosen to “adopt” him and about your school
 - asking him and those he serves to remember you and your school in his prayers
4. Create a presentation for your class or school to describe the “adopt a missionary priest” project. Inform your audience about the priest himself, the nature of the mission, and why you chose to support this particular priest in his ministry.

