

PATTERNS

Part of the whole picture



AIMS:

- To view a quilt as a beautiful combination of patterns.
- To develop an analogy between the pieces of fabric in a quilt and the individuals who comprise the Church.
- To appreciate the vital contributions of sisters, priests, brothers and deacons to God's pattern of creation.

MATERIALS LIST:

- A quilt and/or pictures of quilts
- Option 1: Poster board, construction paper, butcher paper, markers
- Option 2: Pre-cut pieces of solid-color fabric, one per student, squirt bottles of fabric paint, needles and thread or fabric glue or hot-glue gun

VOCATION FOCUS:

- God created each of us as a unique being, and that uniqueness makes us an essential part of the whole pattern of life.
- When we seek for and find our vocation, we fill our unique part in the pattern of Christian community as a religious man or woman an ordained man, a married person or a single person.

Focus Question:

What makes a quilt so beautiful?

REFLECTING:

If you could find a person in the world who had never seen a quilt, he or she might find it difficult to imagine that you could take a collection of scrap fabric of all sizes, shapes, colors and patterns and turn them into a warm, beautiful, and practical work of art. Having seen many beautiful quilts, however, we know this to be true. As a matter of fact, sometimes, the more varied the colors and patterns, the more beautiful the finished cover. About 100 years ago, one popular type of quilt was the "crazy quilt," a random placement of fabric of varying sizes, shapes, and colors which often resulted in stunningly beautiful patterns.

The beautiful people of God's creation come in all sizes, shapes, and colors too, and we form a kind of patchwork quilt. Sometimes it may seem as if we do not know where we fit in the pattern, or even that there is no pattern to our lives. And yet we know that God provides us with many opportunities to discover how to fit in exactly where we are needed in the quilt of Christian community. Just imagine the glorious pattern created by all of the individuals in creation fitting in just where they are needed — that is the true meaning of our acceptance of our call to live in God's community according to our vocation.