

## *Gifts that help to shape our lives.*



### AIMS:

- To find within ourselves special talents and gifts that give shape to our lives.
- To establish the ways in which we can fit ourselves into the puzzle that represents the many needs of the people of God, the Church.
- To make students familiar with the many ways in which priests and religious give shape to their lives for the fulfillment of the mission of Jesus.

### Focus Question:

*How do I fit in?*

### MATERIALS LIST:

- Writing or notebook paper and pencil
- 8½"x11" white paper, one piece for each student
- Smaller pieces or scraps of other colors of construction paper
- Scissors

### VOCATION FOCUS:

- Our individual gifts and talents predispose us to live out our lives in certain ways; we find fulfillment in giving of ourselves to God and other people.
- Priests and religious give shape to their lives by using their special gifts in a vast array of different situations and causes.

### REFLECTING:

There is something very exciting about opening a new jigsaw puzzle. Not only will the finished product be something different from anything you have done before, but the individual pieces will be cut into different shapes, too. When you begin to work the puzzle, you will often confuse one shape with another because many pieces will be similar — but no two will be exactly alike in shape and coloring. Each piece is unique, and each is equally important to solving the puzzle.

Each of us is also a uniquely shaped piece of the puzzle of life. Sometimes life does seem like a puzzle — we just can't figure it all out very easily. What we need to realize is that we can each help complete the puzzle by offering to add our unique shape to it. The structure of our life is created by all of the people who shape it and by the talents and gifts with which we are blessed. We just seem to "fit into" certain situations — perhaps marriage, perhaps the priesthood or religious life, perhaps the single life. Regardless of our decision, we know that we do fit in because we are all chosen by Christ as disciples in the Christian community. With God's help we can find a vocation where we will fit in just perfectly.