Some are called to live as laypeople.

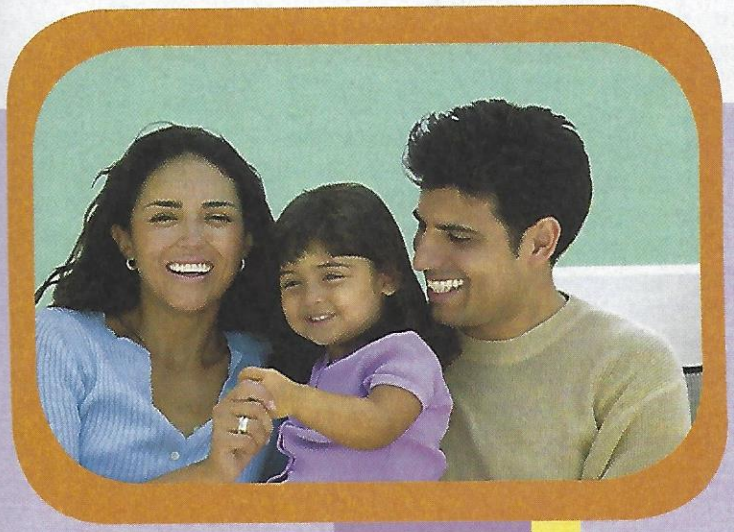
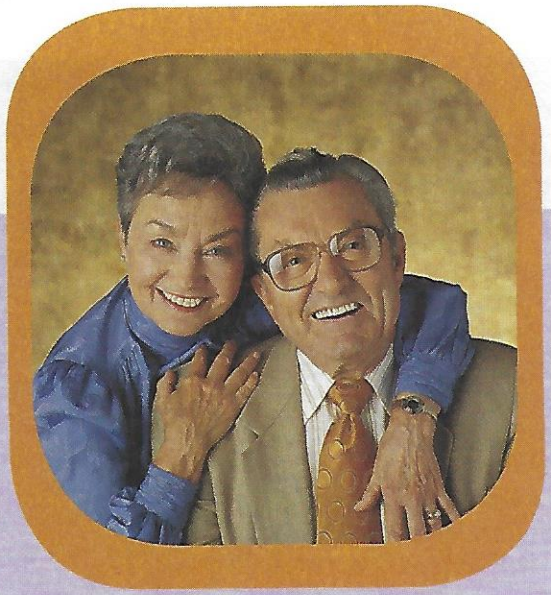
God calls each of us to love and serve him and the Church. Single people and married people serve God and the Church in many ways, sharing God's love in their families and parishes. A husband and wife share God's love in a special way with each other and form a new Christian family. Though much of their time and energy is focused on loving and caring for their families, husbands and wives can also serve others in their neighborhoods, parishes, and communities in many ways.

> **"In the Church, there is diversity of service but unity of purpose."**
> *(Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, 2)*

Single people often devote themselves to sharing their gifts and talents with others through their work. Sometimes they care for their brothers or sisters or take on the extra responsibility of caring for their parents. They may also dedicate more of their time to their parishes and local communities. In these ways they work to make the world a better, safer, and more holy place.

Members of the laity, single or married, live their faith as citizens, voters, and workers. They have a responsibility to bring the good news of Christ to their workplaces and local communities, treating others equally, fairly, and justly. Laypeople can also serve the Church by becoming involved in city, state, and national governments. In these situations they can often take on leadership positions and make many decisions, utilizing the teachings of Jesus and their knowledge of the Catholic faith.The Christian faithful are also called to be active in their parishes, taking part in the parish community. They can:

- participate in the celebration of the sacraments and parish programs
- serve on the pastoral council, as school principals, as teachers, as *catechists*, or religious education instructors, as directors of religious education, or in music, liturgy, and youth ministry
- assist at Mass as ushers and greeters or as altar servers, musicians, readers, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. The laity serve in their dioceses, too. They may work in or hold offices in such ministries as education, worship, youth, and social ministries.

Right now you are a member of the laity, the Christian faithful. You are called by Christ to live as one of his disciples. So, take part in your parish celebrations and activities. Be an example of Christian living. And follow what God calls you to do right now—sharing the good news of Jesus Christ at home, in school, and in your neighborhood.

Activity **You can follow your present vocation as a member of the laity. You can stand up for what is right and just, helping others to see Christ's love for them and his presence in the world. With a partner choose one specific way your group can do this today.**