

## **CALLED BY NAME**

### **Planning Packet for Parishes and Schools**



The weekend of June 4/5 of 2022, which would typically be the weekend we would celebrate our priestly ordinations, the Diocese of Syracuse will implement a vocation promotion initiative. “CALLED BY NAME” is a program that invites young men and women to consider a vocation as a priest, sister, brother or deacon. This program has been recommended by the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on Vocations in their document *A Future Full of Hope: a National Strategy for Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life for the Archdioceses and Dioceses of the United States*.

At the heart of this program is the belief that all of us share a common calling through Baptism, to which we are invited to respond in a variety of ways – marriage, single life, consecrated life and ordained ministry. The CALLED BY NAME process focuses on priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life, and stresses the role of the Christian community in calling forth men and women to consider these vocations.

Parishioners throughout the diocese are encouraged to consider who in our midst might serve well as a priest, deacon, or religious and submit their names during weekend liturgies. There are many good prospective priests, brothers, and sisters who are simply waiting to be asked.

The following qualities are desirable in persons identified as potential candidates:

- A person of prayer who loves the Lord
- A person who is actively involved in the life of the Church
- A person who is successful in life, including school, work, and relationships
- A “people person”
- A person with personal integrity, honesty, generosity

How does the CALLED BY NAME initiative work? Parishioners will be invited to submit names of potential candidates from their respective parishes. Upon approval of the parish staff, persons nominated will be invited to the Tenth Hour, Bishop Lucia’s annual Vocations Picnic held every first Wednesday of August at Christ the King Retreat House in Syracuse. Participants will learn about each of the possible vocations which the Church is inviting them to discern and will have the opportunity to seek answers to their questions and be invited to explore the discernment process further.

The CALLED BY NAME program is an ambitious undertaking which holds great promise for the Diocese of Syracuse. Many dioceses have had success with this program in response to the invitation from their parish and diocesan Vocation Office. It remains so very important that we actively support and promote a future generation of priests, religious sisters and brothers, and deacons to serve a growing Church, hungering for Christ in the Eucharist.

God continues to call people to serve Him in our world today. The faithful have a responsibility to help identify and invite those called. Please pray for the success of this initiative and consider whom in our midst God might be calling to serve.

Your servant in Christ,

Father Jason C. Hage, Director of Vocation Promotion

## **Implementing “CALLED BY NAME” in Your Parish**

The pastor, parochial vicars and appropriate parish staff, parish Vocation Ministry Teams as well as the entire parish all need to be involved for CALLED BY NAME to be successful. Implementation of the program in the parish is not difficult, and requires one person to serve as coordinator. Collaboration with the Liturgy Coordinator, Catechetical Leader, and School Principal is very important as well.

### **The Preparation:**

- Discuss the program with the parish staff
- Appoint a program coordinator (Vocation Ministry Coordinator or staff person)
- Make sufficient copies of the CALLED BY NAME response cards (please use card stock for the response cards, if possible).
- Coordinate the program with all parish groups who minister to young people.
- Provide bulletin editor with materials for parish bulletins for Weeks I, II, III, and IV.

### **Week II (Weekend of May 28/29):**

- Celebration of the Sunday liturgy inaugurating CALLED BY NAME
- The homily should introduce the program and stress the importance of priestly and religious vocations in the church
- The Prayers of the Faithful are coordinated to specifically address vocations
- Bulletin announcements or inserts are included.
- CALLED BY NAME response cards are placed in the pews.
- Parishioners are asked to prayerfully consider the names of good, potential candidates to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life. They then write the names on the response cards provided in the pews, and return them to church the following Sunday, or mail them to the parish office.

### **Week III (Weekend of June 4/5):**

- Every priest will speak about their vocation story and how happy they are in the vocation (the pastor may wish to invite a religious to give a reflection).
- Explain why they are happy and what a priest (deacon/religious) does in his (their) ministry.
- Prayers of the Faithful, music, etc. are again specifically coordinated to address vocations
- Bulletin announcements or inserts are included
- CALLED BY NAME response cards are placed in the collection basket or returned to the parish office sometime during the coming week. (Replenish supply in pews/pamphlet rack, as needed)

### **The Follow-up:**

- Remaining bulletin announcement is included (in Week IV bulletin)
- The submitted names are examined by the parish priests and designated staff members. Those individuals considered to possess the qualities needed for future religious and clergy are set aside for follow-up.
- A letter, (sample provided by the Vocation Office), is sent by the pastor informing the persons recommended that his/her name has surfaced as a result of the CALLED BY NAME program.
- The “Parish Nomination/Recommendation Form” (included in this packet) is sent to the Diocesan Vocations Office <vocations@syrдио.org>. The Office of Vocation Promotion will contact those who are recommended by the parish staff or vocation ministry teams.
- A thank you from the parish priests and staff can be published in the bulletin.

**CALLED BY NAME**  
**Bulletin Announcements**

**Week I (Weekend of May 21/22)** –CALLED BY NAME, a program to promote vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, will begin in our parish next weekend. Pray for vocations. Details next Sunday.

**Week II (Weekend of May 28/29)** - All of the parishes of the Diocese of Syracuse are participating in CALLED BY NAME, a program of vocations awareness that begins this weekend. This program offers an opportunity for us to pray for vocations; to recognize gifts and potential for leadership and service in members of our parish; and finally, to call forth and encourage these members to share their gifts in priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life. Perhaps you know a man or woman (high school age or older) who would, in your opinion, have the qualities to become a priest, sister, or brother. Please recommend this person by filling out the response card found in church. Next weekend, place the completed card in the collection basket.

**Week III (Weekend of June 4/5)** - REMINDER: Today. Place your CALLED BY NAME response card in the collection basket or return it to the parish office. Continue to pray for the success of this program in our parish and our diocese, especially during these weeks of prayer for vocations.

**Week IV (Weekend of June 11/12)** - LAST CHANCE: Today, place you CALLED BY NAME response card in the collection basket or return it to the parish office. Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Remember in prayer those men and women of our parish who have been nominated, that they may appreciate their giftedness and respond to Christ's call.

**CALLED BY NAME**  
**Prayers of the Faithful**

**Week II**

- That all priests, brothers, sisters, and deacons serving in our diocese remain faithful in their ministry to the ideals of Christ, we pray to the Lord ...
- That God will give the necessary grace to members of our diocese now studying for the priesthood or consecrated life in order that they may be faithful to their vocation in life we pray to the Lord ...

**Week III**

- That the CALLED BY NAME Program will be a source of blessing for our parish and for the church, we pray to the Lord ...
- That the Church will celebrate continually each member's baptismal call to serve, we pray to the Lord ...
- That all who serve this parish may be strengthened by our loving and prayerful support, we pray to the Lord ...
- That members of this parish community will continue to pray for and encourage vocations, we pray to the Lord ...

**CALLED BY NAME**  
**Sample Pastor's Letter**

*(on Parish Stationary; please edit highlighted text as appropriate)*

<<Date>>

Dear <<Name>>,

Congratulations, I have some good news to share with you! During the recent "CALLED BY NAME" initiative at our parish, your name was submitted as someone possessing the qualities needed in a future *priest / deacon / brother / sister*. This is quite a compliment as others have obviously noticed your presence around the parish and community, and the gifts you bring to everyday life and the practice of faith.

Has the thought ever crossed your mind that God might be calling you to serve in the ministry of Christ? Are you evaluating your choices for your life's work? Are you curious about the life of a *priest / deacon / brother / sister*? Whether or not you answered yes to any of these questions, I encourage you to take advantage of an upcoming opportunity being sponsored by our Diocese. Please save the date for the *Tenth Hour, which is* Bishop's annual vocations picnic that will take place at Christ the King Retreat House in Syracuse on Wednesday, August 3rd from 4pm until 8pm. The Tenth Hour is an evening of dinner, conversation, prayer, and discernment with our bishops, priests, seminarians, and religious sisters from the Diocese of Syracuse. National Catholic speakers Chris and Linda Padgett will be leading us in conversation, and Jeremy Bobak will be leading us in Praise & Worship!

<<Name>>, I am happy to share the news that someone recommended you. I hope you will give serious consideration to the invitation of considering a religious vocation and to attend an upcoming discernment event. I will also forward your name to Father Kevin Abels, our diocesan Vocation Director, so he can contact you with further information, as well as make himself available in case you have any questions. In the meantime be assured of my prayerful support for you and your future.

Sincerely in Christ,

<<Pastor>>