



CALLED BY NAME

HONORING FAITHFUL YOUNG MEN

Date: January 28, 2025

From: Rev. Nathan Dail, Vocation Director

To: All Parishes

Re: Called By Name Campaign

Bishop Christensen is asking all parishes to participate in Called by Name, a diocesan-wide campaign to identify faithful young men who may be open to the priesthood.

Enclosed are the Called By Name pew cards, along with paper copies of all documents you will need to conduct our diocese's Called by Name Campaign. All of these documents are also available for download at: **www.idahovocations.com/called-resources**

As a reminder, on **February 15-16, 2025**, Bishop Caggiano is asking:

- Priests to tell their vocation story at Masses
- Parishes to include Called by Name cards in pews
- Parishioners to submit names of faithful young men

Thank you for your help with this important campaign!





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CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

The goal of the diocesan-wide Called by Name campaign is to identify faithful young men ages 15-30 who love Christ and the Church, and who could be open to the priesthood. Parishioners are invited to submit the names of young men they would like to honor.

Men whose names are submitted will receive a letter of encouragement from Bishop Christensen and an invitation to a special dinner at which they will learn about the priesthood. Our Vocation Team will offer support and encouragement as they discern their vocations.

CAMPAIGN TIMELINE

Feb 5 *Parishes receive Called by Name box*

- This box will include pew cards, along with hardcopies of a sample homily, prayers of the faithful, a pulpit announcement, and bulletin inserts.

Feb 8-9 *Announcement Weekend*

- Include Bishop Peter's letter in the bulletin and all parish communications (email, Flocknote, social media, etc.)
- Read pulpit announcement at all Masses to introduce Called By Name
- Ensure volunteers or parish staff will place cards in pews at all Masses on Feb 15-16.

Feb 15-16 *Called by Name Sunday*

- Ensure pew cards are placed in pews at every Mass.
- In the homily, tell your vocation story and what you love about being a priest
- At the end of the homily, invite parishioners to submit names, either online or via the pew card
- Include special petitions in the Prayers of the Faithful
- Include bulletin blurb in the bulletin





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PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR WEEKEND BEFORE CAMPAIGN

Read aloud at all Masses on Feb 8-9

“Next weekend is Called By Name Sunday, an initiative to honor faithful young men who may be open to the priesthood. Bishop Christensen has written a letter to us about this important campaign, which we encourage you to read in our bulletin.* Next Sunday, the bishop is inviting all parishioners to submit names of young men who exhibit leadership and a heart for service. These men will receive a letter from the bishop, an invitation to a special dinner to learn about the priesthood, and ongoing support from our Vocation Team.”

**If your parish has Flocknote, a weekly email, or social media, make reference to other communication channels through which you will share the bishop's letter.*





OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Dear Friends,

January 27, 2025

May the peace and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.

I write to you today to share my thoughts and deep concern regarding the vital need to actively promote vocations to the priesthood in our Diocese. One of the most significant responsibilities I have as your bishop is ensuring that future generations of the faithful will continue to have shepherds to guide them. This is why the promotion of priestly vocations is not merely an optional task for us — it is central to our mission as a church.

In response to this, I am announcing a special Called by Name campaign to identify faithful young men in our Diocese who, through God's providence, could have a vocation to the priesthood. The campaign will take place on February 15-16, 2025.

Often, the voice of God is heard through the encouragement of others, and this campaign provides a structured way for parishioners to prayerfully nominate young men who exhibit qualities of faith, leadership, and a heart for service. As we prepare for this campaign, I have a message for young men and for all the faithful:

For Young Men: If you are still discerning God's plan for your life, I invite you to pray about the priesthood. I can tell you firsthand, this vocation is one of fulfillment and joy. Be not afraid! Listen for his call — He loves you and has a great plan of purpose for your life, no matter where you are called to serve!

For All Parishioners: This week prayerfully consider which teen or young man you would like to honor by nominating them for Called By Name. Your nomination will show him that his community sees his potential to do great things for the Lord. At Mass next weekend, you will receive more detailed instructions about how to nominate young men in this campaign. You can also visit idahovocations.com/called to submit a nomination today.

Let us all renew our commitment to pray for and promote priestly vocations in our diocese. Through the grace of God and our collective efforts, may we see a new generation of priests arise who will continue to serve the Church with love, faith, and dedication.

As I remain sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Peter F. Christensen
Bishop of the Diocese of Boise



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BULLETIN BLURB

*Include in ALL parish communications (Flocknote, email, texts, social media, etc.)
on Feb 15-16*

Today is Called by Name Sunday!

Bishop Peter is asking us to identify faithful young men (ages 15-30) who exhibit qualities of leadership and service, and who may be open to the priesthood. **To submit names, please visit idahovocations.com/called.** Men you submit will receive a letter of encouragement from Bishop Peter, an invitation to a special dinner, and support from our Vocation Team. Thank you for your participation in this important campaign!





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HOMILY GUIDE & INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING NAMES

For all homilies on Feb 15-16

Essential Elements to Include in the Homily

- **Tell your vocation story** - how you heard God's call, who helped you to respond, etc.
- **Share about the beauty of priesthood.** It is powerful for your parishioners to hear that you love being a priest!
- **Encourage young men to consider the priesthood.** Ask your congregation to pray for an increase of priestly vocations for our diocese.
- **Invite parishioners to submit the names of young men during the homily.**

Tell Your Vocation Story & Share the Goodness of the Priesthood

Be personal as you share your story - this has an incredible impact on your parishioners, especially the young men in the pews. Here are some prompts that may be helpful as you think about how you want to share your vocation journey:

- What was your family like growing up?
- How and when did you make your faith your own?
- When did you first hear the call to the priesthood and how did you react initially? Was there any hesitation?
- What was happening in your heart as you discerned if priesthood was your vocation?
- What was the day of your ordination like?
- Now that you are a priest, what do you love about your vocation?
- What are some of the most powerful stories you have from living out your priesthood?

Encourage Young People and Prayer for Vocations

- Consider a direct invitation to young people to seriously consider the priesthood or religious life.
- Acknowledge the trepidation and hesitation young men may feel, and encourage them that the priesthood is beautiful and joy-filled. Assure them that God will make his plan clear, and that there is nothing to fear.
- Ask all parishioners to pray for an increase in vocations in the Diocese of Boise



Ask Parishioners to Submit Names

As you explain the Called By Name campaign, and provide instructions for submitting names, please be sure the following information is provided:

- **WHO:** Young men nominated should be between the ages of 15 and 30. Nominees do not need to want to become priests. Rather, they should show promise in their faith, leadership abilities, and dedication to serving the Church. Don't worry—the Vocation Office will not pressure the young man in any way; rather, we'll offer gentle support and encouragement.
- **WHY:** Submitting the name of a young man is a way to honor him. By identifying a young man, you are giving him the opportunity to receive encouragement from the bishop and our Vocation Team.
- **HOW:** Invite parishioners to place completed pew cards in the collection basket, or encourage them to submit names online by using the QR code on the pew cards.

Instructions Script

- “As part of Called By Name Sunday, Bishop Christensen is inviting everyone in the diocese to submit the names of young faithful men. If you know a young man who exhibits qualities of faith, leadership, and a heart for service, you can help encourage him in his vocational discernment by sharing his name and contact information. We are looking for young men between the ages of 15 and 30. These men will receive a letter of encouragement from Bishop Christensen, and invitation to a special dinner, and ongoing support from our Vocations Team. You can either fill out the card in your pew and drop it in the basket today during the collection or scan the QR code to submit the information online. Feel free to take a pew card home, which is a great option if you do not have the contact information with you today. Finally, submitting multiple names is most welcome. Thank you for your generous participation in Called By Name Sunday. Please pray for all in our diocese who are called!”

Pastoral Consideration

- *Should you feel the need to expand on why the diocese is focusing on priestly vocations with this campaign, adding this may be helpful: “While all religious vocations, whether to the consecrated life, religious orders, or lay ministries, are essential to the life and mission of the Church, today we are facing the urgent need for vocations to the diocesan priesthood. Priests play a unique and irreplaceable role in providing the sacraments, preaching the Gospel, and shepherding the faithful in our parishes. As the number of priests continues to decline in many regions, the need for dedicated men to serve as diocesan priests is becoming more pressing. By concentrating our efforts on fostering vocations to the priesthood, we ensure that our local parishes remain vibrant, sacramentally alive, and spiritually nourished for generations to come.”*





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PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

To be included in all Masses on Feb 15-16

- For the young men in our parish who are called to the priesthood, that they will open their hearts to Christ's call and have the courage to respond. We pray to the Lord.
- For young women in our parish who have a call to consecrated life, that they can hear and respond to God's invitation with joy. We pray to the Lord.
- That Catholic families will sincerely encourage their children to consider a vocation in the Church, and support them as they discern how God is asking them to serve. We pray to the Lord.
- That priests, sisters, brothers, and deacons will be credible witnesses to the value of their vocations by following Christ with faithfulness and joy. We pray to the Lord.
- For the priests who have served our parish, especially those who have passed from this life, that the Lord will grant them eternal happiness with Him forever. We pray to the Lord.

