CALLED BY NAME

HONORING FAITHFUL YOUNG MEN

HOMILY GUIDE AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING NAMES

For Masses on April 25-26

Essential Elements to Include in the Homily

- Tell your vocation story. How did you hear 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 New Ulm.

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's. 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 Zielinski 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's. These men will receive a letter of encouragement from Bishop Zielinski, invitations to discernment events, 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."