

# *CALLED*

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# *BY NAME*

A Serra Turnkey Vocations Program

## **Table of Contents**

1. Executive Summary for Serrans
2. Detailed Summary for Serrans
3. Presenting to the Pastor
4. Executive Summary for the Pastor
5. Implementation Steps
6. Follow Up Events
7. Evaluate, Modify, and Prepare for the Next Year
8. Appendix
  - a. English and Spanish nominee Cards
  - b. Sample Boxes Ideas
  - c. Bulletin Articles
  - d. Vocations Prayer Leader
  - e. Sample Pastor Letter
  - f. Sample Follow-up Phone Script
  - g. Discernment Steps, Tools and Hand-Outs

# **Executive Summary for Serrans**

The Called by Name Program invites men and women to consider themselves or others they know as candidates for a vocation to the priesthood, religious life or diaconate. The Program has been recommended by the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Vocations in its document, "A Future Full of Hope: A National Strategy for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life for the Diocese and Dioceses of the United States."

The benefits are:

- An increase in acceptance of the program by pastors globally
- As a turnkey process, the implementation is simpler and faster
- Less parish staff involvement
- Increased Serra visibility in the parish
- Opportunity to strengthen and/or initiate parish vocation committees globally

The objectives are:

- Implement the Called by Name program in more parishes than historic averages
- Increase the number of young men and women entering the discernment process
- Demonstrate to the pastor and staff that Serrans can get the job done and can be a valuable asset to the pastor's team.
- Elevate awareness of Serra within each parish with the possible outcome of attracting new members.
- Elevate awareness of the effectiveness of the program with the hope of securing the Diocesan Vocation Office support for the Called By Name program and the mission of Serra in general.

The process is:

For two consecutive Sundays, masses at a participating parish are devoted to vocations, including the homilies and bulletins. At a designated point during the mass, the presiding priest asks parishioners to think about someone they know (including themselves) who might have a calling to the priesthood, religious life or diaconate. Then the priest asks the parishioners to submit the name(s) and contact information on the customized nominee card in the pew. The cards are then collected and the names presented to the pastor. A reception for the nominees follows with the opportunity to provide them with discernment tools and resources.

**NOTE:** We do recognize that each parish is different and this turnkey program may need minor modification to suit a particular pastor. We hope you will share any lessons learned with us at [VPCommSerra10@gmail.com](mailto:VPCommSerra10@gmail.com).

The key difference between the old Called by Name program and this version, is that the Serra Club members organize and implement the program instead of requesting the parish staff to manage. The Serrans rotate from one church to the next - implementing and executing until every church in the diocese has run the program.

A copy of this document can be downloaded from Serra District 10 website:

- <http://bit.ly/2fdf67a>

# Detailed Summary for Serrans

## Build Your Team

This program is not without work so gather a committed team

- Find at least four willing members before proceeding
- The more members involved creates deeper institutional knowledge and easier implementation
- Any fewer will jeopardize the success of the program at the parish level

Any members of the parish vocations committee should be invited to participate first and approached immediately after approval received from the pastor

## Timeline

Select primary and alternate dates to present to the pastor. Be sure to review the liturgical calendar and develop possible themes for the dates you are suggesting. Be open to changes by the pastor to fit his liturgical plans

The program is a four step process

- Week1-Communications begin with bulletin, mass announcements and relevant newsletter inserts
- Week 2 - Run Called by Name at all Masses
- Week 3 - Run Called by Name at all Masses
- Week 4 - Follow-up with nominees

## Roles and Responsibilities

- Team Leader
  - Presents the request to implement the program to the Pastor directly and discusses the program's integration into his parish and especially the Masses
  - Communicates back to team the direction the program will take according to the Pastor's wishes
  - Keeps everyone on track
  - Works to build relationship with staff

- Organizes planning calls and/or meetings
  - Organizes and logs received card data for the Pastor
- Liturgical & Music Liaison
  - Coordinates with the director of music to include vocations focused music selections
  - Coordinates additions to the prayers of the faithful and past Mass announcements, etc. with director of the liturgy
- Vocations Prayer Leader
  - Prayer is the most important part of this effort and it is their responsibility to keep the team focused on prayer
  - Selects vocations prayers for inclusion in the Mass and printed worship materials
- Printer Liaison
  - Modifies the detail of the nominee cards as needed (Parish name, age restriction, etc)
  - Submits for printing, cutting and pick up.
    - Plan on about 10-15 cards on both ends of each row + 25% more to cover damaged cards.
    - Printed 4 to a sheet - English on one side and Spanish on the other - Click or copy/paste link to access
      - a. <http://bit.ly/2hE3Kta>
      - b. Or see Appendix
  - Your parish printer should have a tax exemption form on file.
- Collection Box Craftsman
  - Each church will likely need 4-6 boxes – one for each exit is recommended.
  - Hobby Lobby has some excellent blank box choices that can be customized for a reasonable price
- Bulletin Article Coordinator
  - Coordinates parish bulletin publishing schedule and lead times
  - We recommend you use the same article format provided in the Appendix.
    - The article should include pictures of the front and back of the cards so the parish is familiar with what to look for (we had to shrink the cards to a size that would fit the space of the article)

- Week One - Introduce the program and why we are doing it.
- It is highly recommended, that any articles get translated and published in the Spanish (or other language) section of the weekly bulletins.
- Pre-Mass Card Replenishment Teams/After-Mass Collection Team
  - Places the initial set of cards into each pew
  - Replenishes cards after each Mass
  - Collects cards from boxes at the end of each Sunday
  - It is recommended SignupGenius.com be used to help people remember and ensure all Masses were covered.
- Card Collection
  - Responsible for retrieving cards from the boxes on Monday and logging them onto a spreadsheet.
- Nominee Introduction Letter Writer
  - Develops the introduction letters
  - Coordinates editing with the Pastor
  - Coordinates printing and mailing
- Nominee Welcome Event Coordinator
  - Develops and plans event with help of Pastor and/or staff
  - Coordinates all food and drinks and setup on day of event
- RSVP Coordinator
  - Sends out reminder email and/or phone calls for event.

# Presenting to the Pastor

- Use the **Executive Summary for Pastors** as a handout
- Discuss the WHY of the program
  - Supported by the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Vocations
  - Stresses the role of the Christian community in calling forth men and women to consider these vocations.
  - Supports the Diocesan effort to foster vocations
  - Should generate interest in ongoing Vocations support in the parish including the possible establishment of a vocations committee if there is not already one in place
- Emphasize the ease of implementation
  - Proven turnkey 4-step process
  - A team of Serrans is standing by, willing to do the majority of the work with minimal parish staff involvement
  - Designed as an annual event
- God yields amazing results
  - Saint Vincent de Paul Church in Houston, TX, hoped for five nominees from their first Called by Name program and to the surprise and delight of everyone, 42 names in all were submitted
  - At St. Michael Church in Houston, TX, a mother approached the Pastor after the mass to tell him she wished the parish had done this 20 years ago because she thought her son had a calling to the priesthood and she was too embarrassed to tell anyone.
  - Grand Island Diocese in Nebraska achieved over 100+ nominees
  - Rice University in Houston, TX (only 700 people attend this chapel) had 12 nominees
    - i. One student approached Father Ray Cook directly to learn more
  - What will you parish story be?

# Executive Summary for the Pastor

## WHAT is Called By Name

- It is a program created by Serra International inviting men and women, of all ages to consider a vocation to the priesthood, religious life, or diaconate.
- Called By Name stresses the role of the Christian community in calling forth men and women to consider a religious vocation.
- Parishioners are encouraged to consider who in their midst might serve well as a priest, deacon or religious and submit their own names or someone they feel might have a calling

## WHY Called By Name

- A proven process with measurable results
- A team of Serrans will do the majority of the work with minimal parish staff involvement
- There are a number of prospective priests, religious and deacons in your parish who will be moved into actively entering into the discernment process after hearing their name was specifically mentioned as someone who might have a calling
- There will be an increase in priests and religious from your parish which is a clear mandate of the Bishop
- The program is conducted over **two weekend Masses**, and designed as an annual event
  - Week One - Communications begin and continue through week three- bulletin, pulpit, and newsletter announcements
  - Week Two – Called By Name is launched at all Masses
    - Vocation themed homilies
    - Announcement from the pulpit regarding the completion and collection of nominee cards
  - Week Three – Same as week two
  - Week Four - Follow up with the individuals whose names were submitted



# Implementation Steps

- Week One
  - Bulletin, mass and newsletter announcements are initiated and maintained for three weeks
- Week Two and Three
  - Celebration of the Sunday liturgy inaugurating Called By Name. The homily should discuss the program and stress the importance of priestly and other religious vocations in the church
  - The Prayers of the Faithful and music are coordinated to specifically address vocations
  - Nominee cards are placed in the pews and the pamphlet rack of the church. Be sure to make pencils or pens available.
  - Parishioners are asked to prayerfully consider the names of good potential nominees. Parishioners then write the names and contact information on the nominee cards provided in the pews, and drop them in the specifically designated boxes at each exit, in the collection baskets, or drop/mail them to the parish office
- Preparation for presiding Priest
  - Determine which priests will be presiding over each Mass on the dates selected
  - Call and email each priest about the Called By Name program to discuss what it is about and ASK them to:
    - Weave a strong vocations message into his homily
    - Specifically mention the Called By Name Program at the end of his homily
    - Example call script...
      - “Father XXXXX, It is my understanding that you will be presiding over Mass on Sunday October XX. This will be the launch week for our Called By Name program focusing on engaging the parish families to help identify parishioners with potential religious vocations. To aid you in highlighting this program we emailed you a document

called Homily Talking Points which simply offers suggestions for inclusion.”

- Send a friendly reminder email about the Called By Name program a few days before and thank them for their support
- ALWAYS have someone check with the celebrant, right before Mass, to make sure the homilist has an actual Called-By-Name card to hold up as a prop when discussing the program and remind them about the boxes at the exits for those cards. This keeps the program top-of-mind.
  - Make sure a you have a card in case they forgot theirs.
- Homily talking points (These can also be found in the Appendix)
  - Make it super easy for the priest or deacon by providing a talking points document
    - Philadelphia - Homily talking points
      - Click or copy/paste link to access - <http://bit.ly/2utiwM>
    - Most likely, each parish will be launching Called By Name on a different date and therefore each new launch talking points must correspond to different readings. Priests and/or deacons will appreciate your aides as they weave vocations into the homily.
    - When you build this program into a Diocesan wide event, celebrating on the same dates, it will be easy to provide homily suggestions. Until then, your pastor will have to weave vocations into the homilies about that week’s reading so it is critical to get his approval for dates as early as possible.
  - Options to aid in building vocations into the homily
    - We strongly urge priests to work part of their own vocations journey into his homily.
    - Possibly enlist the help of a seminarian or postulant to tell their vocations story. Requires a shortened homily.
    - Enlist the help of the other priests and deacons to help develop vocation focused homilies. Serra Clubs can help facilitate this.
    - Keep and share homily ideas between parishes and build a book of ideas you can share with homilist.

- Prayers of the Faithful
  - We recommend no more than three additional prayers included each week. These are suggestions from the Philadelphia program:
  - Week One
    - 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 ...
    - 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 CALLED BY NAME Program will be a source of blessing for our parish and for the church, we pray to the Lord
  - Week Two
    - 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 ...
    - That men and women of our parish who have been nominated to the CALLED BY NAME Program may appreciate their giftedness and respond to Christ's call we pray to the Lord...
- Music Suggestions to included in Mass
  - Be Not Afraid
  - Here I am Lord
  - Servant Song
  - How Beautiful
  - Lead Me, Lord
  - The Road to Emmaus

- Post Mass Announcements
  - Before Mass begins, ALWAYS speak to the person making post Mass announcements. Reiterate the importance of holding the card up and telling people where to place their cards as they leave.
  - Check that an actual CBN card is in the announcement folder as a prop. Don't assume it is still in there from the previous Mass, they go missing or fall out.
- Vocations Prayer Leader – See Appendix
- A previously prepared letter to the nominees from the Pastor should be sent out immediately following the collection of the cards and should include information regarding the follow up events. A sample letter is available in the Appendix.
- A follow up phone call by the Pastor or members of the team with a personal invitation to attend a follow up event should be made shortly after the Pastor's letter has been sent. A sample phone script is available in the Appendix.

# Follow-Up Events

- Follow up events such as a breakfast reception, luncheon or dinner should be defined and scheduled before launching the program so you are not scrambling when the response cards come in.
  - Invitees should be the Pastor, members of the clergy and religious and a couple of members of the team
  - Personalized hand-outs detailing the steps of discernment for each nominee should be ready to go. Sample hand-outs are available in the Appendix
  - Consider having vocation materials such as To Save a Thousand Souls and other types of books available for the nominees
  - Ensure your team reviews nominee details before they arrive to help spur conversations
  - Have an agenda to help lead the nominees through the event and discuss different programs.
    - Meet & Greet
    - Introductions; begin eating if part of the event
    - Q&A suggestions:
      - This can be a stressful and overwhelming meeting for nominees. Some may never have considered themselves as having a religious vocation. They may be reluctant to ask questions.
      - Prepare team members to have questions ready to ask during lulls in the conversation. This can aid nominees in relaxing, opening up as well as spur new questions.
      - These questions will vary based on the candidate's expected at each event.
    - Overview of handouts
    - Depart
  - Towards the end of the event present each nominee with their personalized handout, discernment aides and books.

- Take time to review what is in each person's handout and why these things are important.
- See Appendix for a suggested document "Discernment Steps and Tools"

# **Evaluate, Modify, and Prepare for Next Year**

- Monday After Week Two
  - Meet or have a call with your team to discuss what worked, what were the challenges and how to improve for week three
  - Document these changes and implement them for week three
- Soon After Week Three
  - Meet or have a call with your team to discuss what worked, what were the challenges
  - Document these changes for next year
- By remaining focused and following the process, for this initial implementation, you will prove the power of the program and gain confidence in the process. You will also gain allies for future implementations.

# APPENDIX



# Sample Boxes

- Red Box used at St. Vincent de Paul in Houston, TX - \$50 completed
  - These beautiful boxes were donated and crafted with love and attention to detail by a parishioner on their Vocations Committee
  - All hardware was added, and the slot cut, after painting
  - More details can be had by emailing [VPCCommSerra10@gmail.com](mailto:VPCCommSerra10@gmail.com)



- 3 in 1 Nested Chest Box – Hobby Lobby - \$15 – Unfinished
  - Possible alternative, albeit harder to finish with all the hardware pre-installed; slots must still be cut for cards
  - We recommend finishing any boxes in a distinctive color that people can find quickly as they leave Mass
  - Locks are recommended only to keep the curious at bay; they are obviously not for security



## Bulletin Articles

- Same article each Sunday during the program (examples below)
  - Using the same article and format gives consistent branding and keeps the program front and center with parishioners.
  - [One English Called by Name card](#) with the saying ABOVE it
    - Ever feel like someone you know or have met would make a good priest, sister, brother or deacon? If you've never spoken to them about it, the Called-By-Name program is your chance to lovingly nudge them to explore God's calling. Our **Vocations Committee** encourages you to use the yellow response cards in your pews to nominate that person. Please place the cards in the **RED** boxes at each of the exits.
  - [One Spanish CBN card](#) in the Spanish section with this saying ABOVE it
    - Alguna vez ha sentido que una persona que Ud conoce ó ha conocido tiene la posibilidad de ser un buen Sacerdote, Hermano, Hermana o Diácono? Si Ud nunca se lo ha dicho, hay un programa llamado "Te llama por tu nombre" y es su oportunidad para ponerle en su mente con mucho amor, un granito de interés para que esa persona explore la llamada de Dios. **El Comité de Vocaciones** de la Parroquia lo invita a usar las tarjetas amarillas que hay en las bancas de la Iglesia para nominar a esa persona. Favor de dejar la tarjeta que Ud llene en las cajas **ROJAS** que se encuentran en cada salida de la Iglesia.

■ Full page insert example

**Vocations -Called by Name**

Ever feel like someone you know or have met would make a good priest, sister, brother or deacon? If you've never spoken to them about it, the Called-By-Name program is your chance to lovingly nudge them to explore God's calling. SVdP Vocations Committee encourages you to use the yellow cards in your pews to nominate that person. Please place the cards in the RED boxes at each of the exits.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH

*CALLED  
BY NAME*

After prayerful consideration, I believe our pastor should speak with this person to help them discern if Jesus could be calling them to discipleship as a priest, sister, brother or deacon.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Name of candidate)* *(Approx. Age)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Address – if known – Physical or email)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Phone-if known, or Parent's Name)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Why I think this person may be called by Jesus?)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Nominator's Name and contact (optional)*

7

■ Half page example

**Vocations -  
Called by Name**

Ever feel like someone you know or have met would make a good priest, sister, brother or deacon? If you've never spoken to them about it, the Called-By-Name program is your chance to lovingly nudge them to explore God's calling. SVdP Vocations Committee encourages you to use the yellow cards in your pews to nominate that person. Please place the cards in the RED boxes at each of the exits.

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ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH

**— CALLED  
BY NAME —**

After prayerful consideration, I believe our pastor should speak with this person to help them discern if Jesus could be calling them to discipleship as a priest, sister, brother or deacon.

(Name of candidate) (Approx. Age)

(Address - if known - Physical or email)

(Phone-if known, or Parent's Name)

(Why I think this person may be called by Jesus?)

Nominator's Name and contact (optional)

**St. Vincent de Paul School  
Style Show & Luncheon**

The St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School PTO cordially invites you to Dream On! - the 2017 SVdP Style Show and Luncheon to be held on **Sunday, May 7, 2017**, at the **Houstonian Hotel**.

This special event will celebrate and bid farewell to the **Class of 2017** and honor our beloved school nurse, **Mrs. Lorraine Coletti**, with the 2017 Legacy of Excellence Award.

The reception and silent auction will begin at 10:30 a.m., and the luncheon will commence at 11:00 a.m.

Individual tickets are available for purchase through the online SVdP Store at:  
<http://svdpschool.corecommerce.Com/2017-Dream-On-Style-Show-Luncheon-c63/>.

Please contact Reservations Chair, Karen Haysley, at [kpink01@yahoo.com](mailto:kpink01@yahoo.com)

**Please Help Fr. John Build a Hospital**

Fr. John Ugobueze, who lives with us here at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, continues to work on a multi-year project to build a high quality, Western-style hospital to serve the poor in a rural area of Nigeria. A team of experienced professionals in the healthcare field, a hospital design architect, a major Houston law firm, and several parishioners are advising Fr. John. For those wishing to give alms, here is an opportunity to **help Fr. John in this express Act of Mercy** by providing the poor who cannot travel, to get high quality medical care within their own country. Will you help? Learn more about the hospital project, view Fr. John's appeal and, if you can, make a donation, by going to the project's website, <http://catholiccare-nigeria.org> Or make checks payable to **Catholic League for the Poor of Nigeria, Inc.** Fr. John

■ 1/3 page example

**Vocations - Called by Name**

Ever feel like someone you know or have met would make a good priest, sister, brother or deacon? If you've never spoken to them about it, the Called-By-Name program is your chance to lovingly nudge them to explore God's calling. SVdP Vocations Committee encourages you to use the yellow cards in your pews to nominate that person. Please place the cards in the RED boxes at

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ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH

**— CALLED  
BY NAME —**

After prayerful consideration, I believe our pastor should speak with this person to help them discern if Jesus could be calling them to discipleship as a priest, sister, brother or deacon.

(Name of candidate) (Approx. Age)

(Address - if known - Physical or email)

(Phone-if known, or Parent's Name)

(Why I think this person may be called by Jesus?)

Nominator's Name and contact (optional)

**Saint Vincent de Paul Young Adults**

www.facebook.com/svpjpa  
www.svpjpa.com

As members of St. Vincent de Paul's Young Adults (SVPYA), we strive to live out our Catholic faith in both word and deed. We achieve this goal through our service, spiritual formation, and social events in support of one another, our community, and the Church as a whole. Together, we take up the call of bringing Christ into the world! SVPYA is centered around a 6:30 pm praise and worship, 7pm Mass, and dinner every Tuesday evening (except for the 1st Tuesday of the month), along with an array of social and spiritual events. Come join us at one of our upcoming events, or find our group on Facebook by searching "SVPYA" or email [svpya@gmail.com](mailto:svpya@gmail.com) to get involved.

**Upcoming Events**

**Sunday, May 7: Coffee and Doughnuts Volunteering**  
Join our young adult community in serving after the 7am, 9am, and 11am Masses. We need at least 3 people in every time slot! We will send an email to everyone who signs up about the logistics of serving.

**Other things to look out for in May...**

**Café Catholica**

Attention Young Adults (18-30s) come join 700 fellow young Catholics for dinner and great talks! Café Catholica 2017 "Be Not Afraid" is a dinner-lecture series for young adults, featuring dynamic speakers. The Café is held over three Mondays in the summer. Evening schedule: 5:15 p.m. Confessions, 6:15 p.m. Mass, 7:15 p.m. dinner, 8:15 p.m. speaker, table exhibits and socializing. Come for all or part of the evening! Free event.

**CENTRAL:** Catholic Charismatic Center, 1949 Cullen Road. • **July 10:** Rev. Luke Millette and Kevin Becker (NYC). Topic: A Call To Sainthood: Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati Patron of Young Adults • **July 17:** Rev. Agostino Torres CFR, (Pure Heart NYC). Topic: Seeking a Real Connection • **July 24:** Daniel Cardinal DiNardo; Topic: The Church's Response.

*Sponsored by the Office of Young Adult & Campus Ministry. For more information and*

**ST. ANNE'S SOCIETY**

**The Choice Mine** Sat., May 13, 6:30pm. MJFC  
**Mom's Night Out** Wed., May 17, 2017 7:30 PM  
Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway Houston  
**Vacation Bible School** is coming to SVdP **June 5-9**  
Registration opens March 1 thru May 19.  
**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to help make this the best VBS yet.  
Members visit [www.stannesociety.org](http://www.stannesociety.org) for Details RSVP  
Non-Members - contact Jennifer Kurma at [social@stannesociety.org](mailto:social@stannesociety.org)  
Reserve your children's spot in the nursery

- Final Appreciation article
  - Published a week or two after the program ends to announce results and thank the parish; People appreciate knowing they had an impact.
    - “Between Date XX and Date XX this year, we asked our parishioners to help identify those among us who may have a calling from God to live a religious vocation. We're proud to announce that you nominated XX men and XX women whom you felt might make good priests, sisters, brothers, or deacons. **Insert Pastor's Name** will be reaching out to these folks in the very near future. What happens next is all in God's time, not ours, as He calls His laborers. Some will answer, some will defer, others will decline. We remind one and all that a nudge from a friend or family member can help a person hear God's whisper within the noise of life; we also hope that our parish families will embrace the possibility that their child or loved one may have a religious vocation, and will remain open to God's Love as they prayerfully discern.”

## Vocations Prayer Leader

*O Lord, help me know your will for me Let your light shine in the depths of my heart that I may know what you want me to do with my life. Help me believe that you have a special plan for me. Lord, I know I pass through this life only once; help me decide how you want me to make a difference. Like our Blessed Mother give me*

*O God, Father of all Mercies, Provider of a bountiful Harvest, send Your Graces upon those you have called to gather the fruits of Your labor; preserve and strengthen them in their lifelong service of you.*

*Open the hearts of Your children that they may discern Your Holy Will; inspire in them a love and desire to surrender themselves to serving others in the name of Your son, Jesus Christ.*

*Teach all Your faithful to follow their respective paths in life guided by Your Divine Word and Truth.*

*Through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, all the Angels, and Saints, humbly hear our prayers and grant Your Church's needs, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

**CALLED**  

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**BY NAME**

# SAMPLE PASTOR'S LETTER

(Please fill in highlighted text as appropriate and then copy and paste onto parish stationery.)

**NOTE: For any nominee under under 18 years of age the first contact must be made with the parents and not the minor. To contact the minor directly, written permission from the parents must be acquired and on file.**

Dear XXXXX

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/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? 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.

XXXXX, I am happy to share the news that someone recommended you. I hope you will give serious consideration to the invitation of considering a priestly vocation and to attend an upcoming discernment event. I will also forward your name to Father XXXXXXXXX, 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,

(NOTE - Please ask the Pastor to "wet" sign each letter using a pen, vs "dry" signing which is using a scanned signature. Staff will often use the scan to save him time, but this is too impersonal and not appropriate for this letter)

Signature Block of Pastor

*CALLED*  
—————  
*BY NAME*



# FOLLOW-UP PHONE CALL “SCRIPT”

**NOTE: For any nominee under under 18 years of age the first contact must be made with the parents and not the minor. To contact the minor directly, written permission from the parents must be acquired and on file.**

Hello! XXXXX,

I'm calling on behalf of Father XXXXX regarding the recent CALLED BY NAME program at our parish.

As you may know, your name was given to Father XXXXX as someone who has the qualities we look for in future priests/sister/brothers/deacons. We think that this is good news, and I hope that you are happy to know that someone thought well of you to recommend you.

I am calling to see whether you received the letter from Father XXXXX sharing this good news.

If you have any questions about the CALLED BY NAME program or any upcoming discernment events, I will be happy to answer them if can, or I will pass them along to someone else who can get back to you with a response.

(Note any questions and be sure to have a current copy of all the upcoming discernment events...)

Would you like any additional information sent to you regarding options for the future?

Thank you for your time today and know that I will remember you in prayer today.

Have a blessed day!

*CALLED*  

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*BY NAME*

**Discernment Handout Suggestions  
Steps and Tools for:**

- **Priest or Religious Brother**
- **Religious Sister**
- **Diocesan Deacon**

**Content MUST be approved by Pastor  
prior to event.**

**Personalize the appropriate  
document for each nominee before  
your parish event(s).**

*CALLED  
BY NAME*

# Diocesan Priest or Religious Brother

## Discernment Steps and Tools

1  **PRAYER**  
Enhance your relationship  
with Jesus Christ

2  **SPIRITUAL DIRECTION**  
with your Parish Priest or Spiritual Director

3  **VISIT US**  
at the vocations office

4  **BE ACTIVE**  
with your discernment by  
participating in our vocational programs

5  **VISIT**  
the seminary or a religious community

6  **DECISION MAKING**  
Begin the application process

1. Step 1
  - a. Meet with your Pastor for a deeper review of the programs and everything involved
2. Step 2
  - a. Director of Vocations
    - i. Name - **XXXXXXXX**
    - ii. Number – **XXX-XXX-XXXX**
3. Step 3
  - a. Attend a Vocations Office event
    - i. Event 1 – Name & Date
      1. description
    - ii. Event 2 – Name & Date
      1. description
4. Books for Discernment
  - a. [To Save a Thousand Souls](#) – Fr. Brett Brannen

## 5. Links

- a. [www.VocationNetwork.org/en/](http://www.VocationNetwork.org/en/)
- b. [www.HeroicPriesthood.com](http://www.HeroicPriesthood.com)
- c. ???

## 6. FAQs

- a. Q: How long does it take to become a Priest?
  - i. A: If you have a college degree...
  - ii. A: If you don't have a college degree...
- b. Q: What is a Postulant?
  - i. A:
- c. Q: What is a Novice?
  - i. A:
- d. Q: How old can I be and still become a priest/brother?
  - i. A:

# CALLED BY NAME

## Religious Sister

### Discernment Steps and Tools

1  **PRAYER**  
Enhance your relationship with Jesus Christ

2  **SPIRITUAL DIRECTION**  
with your Parish Priest or Spiritual Director

3  **VISIT US**  
at the vocations office

4  **BE ACTIVE**  
with your discernment by participating in our vocational programs

5  **VISIT**  
the seminary or a religious community

6  **DECISION MAKING**  
Begin the application process

1. Step 1
  - a. Meet with your Pastor for a deeper review of the programs available and everything involved
2. Step 2
  - a. Director of Vocations
    - i. Name - XXXXXXXXX
    - ii. Number – XXX-XXX-XXXX
3. Step 3
  - a. Attend a Vocations Office event
    - i. Event 1 – Name & Date
      1. description
    - ii. Event 2 – Name & Date
      1. description
4. Books for Discernment
  - a. [Discerning Religious Life](#)
  - b. [And Mary's Yes Continues](#)
5. Links
  - a. [www.VocationNetwork.org/en/](http://www.VocationNetwork.org/en/)
  - b.

## 6. FAQs

a. Q: What is a Postulant?

i. A:

b. Q: What is a Novice?

i. A:

c. Q: How old can I be and still become a sister?

i. A:

*CALLED  
BY NAME*

# Diocesan Deacon

## Discernment Steps and Tools

1  **PRAYER**  
Enhance your relationship with Jesus Christ

2  **SPIRITUAL DIRECTION**  
with your Parish Priest or Spiritual Director

3  **VISIT US**  
at the vocations office

4  **BE ACTIVE**  
with your discernment by participating in our vocational programs

5  **VISIT**  
the seminary or a religious community

6  **DECISION MAKING**  
Begin the application process

1. Step 1
  - a. Meet with your Pastor for a deeper review of the diaconate program and everything involved
2. Step 2
  - a. Director of Vocations
    - i. Name - XXXXXXXXX
    - ii. Number – XXX-XXX-XXXX
3. Step 3
  - a. Attend a Vocations Office event
    - i. Event 1 – Name & Date
      1. description
    - ii. Event 2 – Name & Date
      1. description
4. Books for Discernment
  - a. Foundations for the Renewal of the Diaconate (1993), compiled by the Bishops' Committee on the Permanent Diaconate, USCCB Publication No. 185-7. This is an historical compilation of articles by some of the Vatican II participants covering the thinking and debates

during Vatican II surrounding the reestablishment of the permanent diaconate.

- b. The Deacon Reader (2006), edited by James Keating, Paulist Press. An overview of the theology, pastoral ministry, and spirituality of the permanent deacon.
- c. National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons in the U.S. (2005), USCCB Publication No. 5-368. This is the bible, more or less, for diocesan diaconate formation programs, but may be of interest to anyone interested in the diaconate about what they may be looking at during formation and after.
- d. Compendium on the Diaconate, (2015), USCCB Publication No. 7-503. A comprehensive look at the diaconate sources from scripture and patristic writings through the formation of the National Directory above.

#### 5. Links

- a. [A Ministry of Service: Diaconate - Catholic Focus](#) – 28mins
- b. [USCCB video](#)

#### 6. FAQs (my recollection of CALLED BY NAME event with our Pastor)

- a. Q: Whom do deacons report to and get their assignments from?
  - i. A: The Bishop
- b. Q: Will I be a deacon at my home parish?
  - i. A: Your assignment is something to discuss with the Bishop.
- c. Q: What role does my wife play, if any?
  - i. A: Your wife must approve of your entering the diaconate. Your vocation of marriage is your primary responsibility and should never be jeopardized.
- d. Q: How long am I a deacon for once ordained?
  - i. A: Deacons are a part of Holy Order Sacraments so ordinations are for life.
- e. Q: Can I be single and be a Deacon?
  - i. A: Both Married and single men can become deacons. However, married men take a vow never to remarry should they be widowed. Also, if you are single when ordained then you take a vow never to marry.
- f. Q: What do deacons do?
  - i. A: Deacons can do everything priests can do except preside over Mass or take confessions. They may give homilies, preside over weddings and funerals, counsel, baptize.



## Links to Documents from other Diocese

1. Scanned doc of Called By Name program - Galveston-Houston
  - a. Bishop Fiorenza - <http://bit.ly/2vyTCY1>
2. Called By Name - Brooklyn
  - a. [http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/vocations/vocations-office/called\\_name/](http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/vocations/vocations-office/called_name/)
3. Called By Name - Philadelphia
  - a. <http://heedthecall.org/2778/called-by-name>
4. Word doc of Called By Name - Joliet, IL - 2005 - <http://bit.ly/2v5eAwS>