

CALLED BY NAME

“CALLED BY NAME” is a program that invites men, 18 years of age or older, to consider priesthood.

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 priesthood. The CALLED BY NAME process focuses on priesthood, and stresses the role of the Christian community in calling forth men to consider this vocation.

Parishioners throughout the diocese are encouraged to consider who in our midst might serve well as a priest and submit their names at the weekend liturgies of January 27th – 28th and February 3rd – 4th, 2024. There are many good prospective priests who are simply waiting to be asked.

What should one look for in a candidate to priesthood? 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 person who engages others;
- A person with personal integrity, honesty, generosity.

Often, when talking to potential priest candidates, they will say that they think they would be good husbands and fathers. Many of the same qualities that make one well suited to be a spouse and parent are the qualities that make one a good priest.

How does the CALLED BY NAME process work? Parishioners will be invited to submit names of potential candidates in their respective parishes on January 27th-28th and February 3rd – 4th, 2024. Persons nominated will be invited to Come and See Weekends and Andrew Dinners. At the Andrew Dinners, participants will meet the Bishop and learn about the call and life of ministry as a priest. They will have an opportunity to seek answers to their questions and then be invited to explore discernment processes further.

The CALLED BY NAME program is an ambitious undertaking which holds great promise for the Diocese of London. In this year when we, as a diocese, celebrate a Year of Prayer for Priestly Vocations, how important it is to actively support and promote a future generation of priests to serve a Church hungering for Christ in the Eucharist.

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

Yours in Christ,
Father Danny Santos
Director of Vocations and Seminarians