

CALLED BY NAME

ISAIAH
43:1

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

In January of 2012, the Diocese of Brooklyn will implement a vocation promotion initiative. “CALLED BY NAME” is a program that invites men and women, 18 years of age or older, 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 at the weekend liturgies **January 14-15** and **January 21-22, 2012**. 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 in their respective parishes in mid-January. Upon approval of the parish staff, persons nominated will be invited to a discernment event in the Spring of 2012. 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 Brooklyn. 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.

Sincerely in Christ,



Father Kevin Abels
Director of Vocations