

CALLED BY NAME
Sample Pastor's Letter

(on Parish Stationary; please edit highlighted text as appropriate)

Date

Dear <<Name>>,

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 / brother / sister / deacon*. 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, brother, sister, or deacon*? 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.

You are cordially invited, along with others from our parish and community, to attend an afternoon of information and reflection sponsored by our diocesan Vocation Office. This gathering, entitled "*Called by Name ... Answered in Faith*" will help participants look at the call, life, and ministry of priests, sisters, brothers, and deacons. Obviously, there is no commitment on your part other than an interest to learn more about yourself and the possibilities for the future. The gathering will be held on **Sunday, March 18, 2012 from 1:00 to 7:00 PM at St. John's University** (8000 Utopia Parkway; Queens, New York 11439).

<<Name>>, I am happy to share the news that someone recommended you. I hope you will give serious consideration to the invitation to consider a religious vocation and to attend the afternoon of reflection. I will also forward your name to Father Kevin Abels, our diocesan Vocation Director, so he can contact you with further information about the March 18th event, 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,

Pastor