


CALLED BY
 NAME
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

A process of invitation
to Church vocations

Diocese of Brooklyn



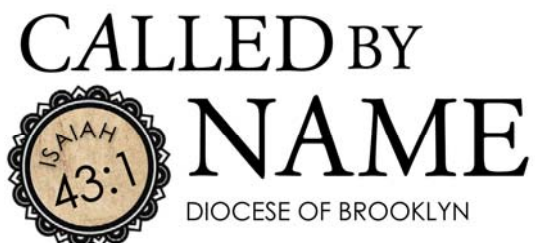
*This information is available in several languages at:
www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/called_name*

CALLED BY NAME


Instructional Packet

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CALLED BY NAME



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 during weekend liturgies. 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 from their respective parishes. Upon approval of the parish staff, persons nominated will be invited to an upcoming discernment event. 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

Implementing “CALLED BY NAME” in Your Parish

The pastor, parochial vicars and appropriate parish staff, Parish Vocation Committee (PVC) members, as well as the entire parish all need to be involved for CALLED BY NAME to be successful. Implementation of the program in the parish is not difficult, and requires one person to serve as coordinator. Collaboration with the liturgy director, D.R.E., and school principal is very important as well.

The Preparation:

- Discuss the program with the parish staff
- Appoint a program coordinator (PVC Coordinator or staff person)
- Make sufficient copies of the CALLED BY NAME brochure and response cards (please use card stock for the response cards, if possible).
- Coordinate the program with all parish groups who minister to young people 18 years of age or older.
- CALLED BY NAME Vocation poster should be displayed.
- Provide bulletin editor with materials for parish bulletins for Weeks I, II, III, and IV.
- Place the CALLED BY NAME brochures in church/pews a few weeks prior to Week I.

Week II:

- Celebration of the Sunday liturgy inaugurating CALLED BY NAME
- The homily should introduce the program and stress the importance of priestly and religious vocations in the church (see suggested “talking points”)
- The Prayers of the Faithful and music are coordinated to specifically address vocations
- Bulletin announcements or inserts are included.
- CALLED BY NAME response cards are placed in the pews and/or pamphlet rack of the church
- Parishioners are asked to prayerfully consider the names of good, potential candidates to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life. They then write the names on the response cards provided in the pews, and return them to church the following Sunday, or mail them to the parish office.

Week III:

- Every priest will speak about their vocation story and how happy they are in the vocation (the pastor may wish to invite a religious to give a reflection).
- Explain why they are happy and what a priest (deacon/religious) does in his (their) ministry.
- Prayers of the Faithful, music, etc. are again specifically coordinated to address vocations
- Bulletin announcements or inserts are included
- CALLED BY NAME response cards are placed in the collection basket or returned to the parish office sometime during the coming week. (Replenish supply in pews/pamphlet rack, as needed)

The Follow-up:

- Remaining bulletin announcement is included (in Week IV bulletin)
- The submitted names are examined by the parish priests and designated staff members. Those individuals considered to possess the qualities needed for future religious and clergy are set aside for follow-up.
- A letter, (sample provided by the Vocation Office), is sent by the pastor informing the persons recommended that his/her name has surfaced as a result of the CALLED BY NAME program.
- The parish coordinator follows up the pastor’s letter with a phone call expressing their encouragement and hope that the person might remain open to the vocation to priesthood, diaconate or religious life. NOTE: The Parish Coordinator should not be given the actual response card and does not need to know who submitted the card.
- The “Parish Nomination/Recommendation Form” (included in this packet) is sent to the Diocesan Vocation Office. Father Kevin Abels will contact those who are recommended by the parish staff.
- A thank you from the parish priests and staff can be published in the bulletin.

Thanks for all you do to pray for and encourage vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life! Your efforts will make a difference!

Jesus said to them: “*The Harvest is rich but the laborers are few; therefore ask the harvest-master to send workers to his harvest.*” **Luke 10:2**

CALLED BY NAME Timeline

- 1. Advance Preparation & Promotion**
 - a) Download planning packet from diocesan website
 - b) Identify parish coordinator
 - c) Print sufficient copies of the brochure and response card
 - d) Place brochures in church by November/December 2011
 - e) Give bulletin editor material for future bulletins

- 2. Bulletin Announcement** **Week I**
 - a) Confirm that bulletin editor has material for this week's bulletin

- 3. All Weekend Masses** **Week II**
 - a) Vocation Homily, Intercessions, music
 - b) Response cards placed in pews
 - c) Confirm that bulletin editor has material for this week's bulletin

- 4. All Weekend Masses** **Week III**
 - a) Vocation Homily, Intercessions, Music
 - b) Response cards are collected (replenished, if necessary)
 - c) Confirm that bulletin editor has material for this week's bulletin

- 5. Screening and Follow-up** **Week IV and beyond**
 - a) Pastor and staff screen names
 - b) Pastor mails letter to candidates (see sample in packet)
 - c) Parish coordinator phones candidates (see sample script in packet)
 - d) Parish Nomination Form sent to Vocation Office

- 6. Follow-up Discernment Event / Other Retreats** **Ongoing**

Contact the Vocation Office for upcoming events or log onto www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/upcoming-events .

CALLED BY NAME

Homily “Talking Points”

(for priests and deacons)

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Week II

- At His Baptism, Christ’s identity was made known ... “This is my beloved Son, on whom my favor rests.”
- Our vocations are rooted in our Baptism, when we are given our identity in faith by God.
- In Baptism we are graced and blessed by God, and throughout life each of us has a responsibility to reflect upon those graces and blessings so that we can make a generous return to the Lord.
- Through our vocations we say “Yes” to God. Our vocation does not answer the question, “What do I want to do with my life?” but rather answers the question, “Who does God want me to be?”
- There are a multitude of ways we can respond to the Lord, and some respond through consecrated and priestly lives. There is no one path to priesthood, diaconate or religious life; people enter that process at different stages in their lives.
- Highlight the great need in our Church for religious vocations.
- **An announcement should be made to indicate where the CALLED BY NAME response cards have been placed and to invite people to prayerfully consider names of potential candidates. Remind the assembly that the cards will be collected the following week.**

Please note: These are offered as suggested talking points and not an actual outline that must be followed.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Week III

The homily this week simply asks the priest to tell his vocation story and show how happy he is in his ministry as a priest. Here are some suggested talking points:

- How long have you been a priest?
- Describe the call/when did you know you wanted to be a priest?
- When did you first think about it? How old were you?
- What did you want to do before you became a priest?
- Who helped you to choose this vocation?
- Were you afraid?
- What did your family say?
- What makes you happy as a priest?
- What do you do as a priest?

CALLED BY NAME

Prayers of the Faithful

Week II

- 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 ...

Week III

- 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 ...

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 / deacon / brother / 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 / deacon / brother / sister**? 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.

<<Name>>, I am happy to share the news that someone recommended you. I hope you will give serious consideration to the invitation of considering a religious vocation and to attend an upcoming discernment event. I will also forward your name to Father Kevin Abels, 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,

<<Pastor>>

CALLED BY NAME
Follow-up Phone Call “Script”
(to be made by Parish Coordinator)

Hello, _____.

I’m calling for Father _____ regarding the recent CALLED BY NAME program at our parish.

As you may know, your name was given to Father as the name of someone who has the qualities we look for in future _____ (*priest / sister / brother / deacon*). 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 _____ 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 ...)

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

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

Good-bye.

CALLED BY NAME

Response cards

The cards have been arranged for you on the following pages to make it easy for you to copy and cut. Please note that the cards are TWO-SIDED.

For better precision and accuracy, it is recommended that you print the response cards from the file found on the Vocation website: *www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/called_name*

Also, it is recommended that you use CARD STOCK rather than regular copy paper.

CALLED BY NAME Response card

After prayerful consideration, I believe the person named below has qualities needed in a future priest, sister, brother, or deacon. Perhaps the Lord Jesus is calling him or her to this particular vocation.

Candidate must be at least 18 years old.

Name of person you are recommending

Street Address

City *Zip*

Phone # *His/Her approximate age*

How well do you know this person?

I recommend this person as a possible:

priest sister brother deacon

Your name and phone # (optional)

Please place this card in the collection basket or bring to the parish office.

CALLED BY NAME Response card

After prayerful consideration, I believe the person named below has qualities needed in a future priest, sister, brother, or deacon. Perhaps the Lord Jesus is calling him or her to this particular vocation.

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Your name and phone # (optional)

Please place this card in the collection basket or bring to the parish office.

Qualities Desired in a Candidate for Priesthood, Diaconate and Religious Life

HE OR SHE:

- Feels good about himself/herself, has average to above average *intelligence*, and has good physical, mental and emotional health.
- Is willing to *sacrifice* personal or material gain for the service of the Gospel and the Church.
- Considers a *personal* relationship with God as an important part of life.
- Forms and maintains healthy *relationships* with both men and women.
- Has an ability and *willingness* to talk about his/her faith life.
- Has the ability to *lead* and work with people of all ages.
- Has a *desire* to serve others and make a difference in people's lives.
- *Enjoys* life, people, and has a sense of humor.
- Is recognized as being *approachable*.
- *Recognizes* the importance of the Church.

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CALLED BY NAME

Bulletin Announcements

Week I –CALLED BY NAME, a program to promote vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, will begin in our parish next weekend. Pray for vocations. Details next Sunday.

Week II - All the parishes of the Diocese of Brooklyn are participating in CALLED BY NAME, a program of vocations awareness that begins this weekend. This program offers an opportunity for us to pray for vocations; to recognize gifts and potential for leadership and service in members of our parish; and finally, to call forth and encourage these members to share their gifts in priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life. Perhaps you know a man or woman (high school age or older) who would, in your opinion, have the qualities to become a priest, sister, or brother. Please recommend this person by filling out the response card found in church. Next weekend, place the completed card in the collection basket.

Week III - REMINDER: Today. Place your CALLED BY NAME response card in the collection basket or return it to the parish office. Continue to pray for the success of this program in our parish and our diocese, especially during these weeks of prayer for vocations.

Week IV - LAST CHANCE: Today, place you CALLED BY NAME response card in the collection basket or return it to the parish office. Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Remember in prayer those men and women of our parish who have been nominated, that they may appreciate their giftedness and respond to Christ's call.

CALLED BY NAME


Bulletin Inserts

(page 1 of 3)

(You may wish to use these images instead of the text found in the "Bulletin Announcement" on the previous pages. These images are available in electronic format on www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/called_name)

Week I

**CALLLED BY
NAME**

 DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

A program to promote vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, will begin in our parish next weekend.
Please pray for vocations. Details next Sunday.

A program to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life will begin in our parish next weekend.

Please pray for vocations.


God of gracious love, You gathered us first at the waters of baptism, and you lead us through life with faithfulness.

Raise up from among our parish family, leaders to serve your people as Priests, Sisters, Brothers, and Deacons.

To those whom You call, give grace and courage to discern how they may best serve you. To all of us, give us good hearts so we might encourage them along the way.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, and with your Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

**CALLLED BY
NAME**

 DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

CALLED BY NAME

Bulletin Inserts

(page 2 of 3)

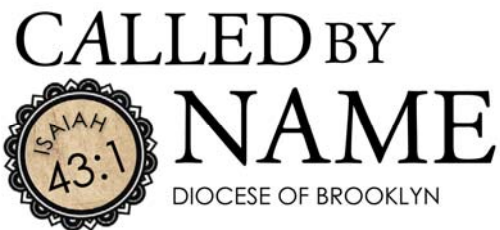
(these images are available in electronic format on www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/called_name)

Week II

Qualities Desired in a Candidate for Priesthood, Diaconate, and Religious Life

He or She:

- Feels good about himself/herself, has average to above average *intelligence*, and has good physical, mental and emotional *health*.
- Is willing to *sacrifice* personal or material gain for the *service* of the Gospel and the Church.
- Considers a *personal* relationship with God as an important part of life.
- Forms and maintains healthy *relationships* with both men and women.
- Has an ability and *willingness* to talk about his/her faith life.
- Has the ability to *lead* and work with people of all ages.
- Has a *desire* to serve others and make a difference in people's lives.
- *Enjoys* life, people, and has a sense of humor.
- Is recognized as being *approachable*.
- *Recognizes* the importance of the Church.



The Diocese of Brooklyn has encouraged all parishes to participate in CALLED BY NAME, a program of vocation awareness that begins this weekend. This program offers us an opportunity to pray for vocations; to recognize gifts and potential for leadership and service in members of our parish; and finally, to call forth and encourage these members to share their gifts in priesthood or religious life. Perhaps you know a single man or woman (18 years or older) who would, in your opinion, have qualities to become a priest, sister, or brother. Please recommend this person by filling out the response card found in church. Next weekend, place the completed card in the collection basket or return it to the parish office.

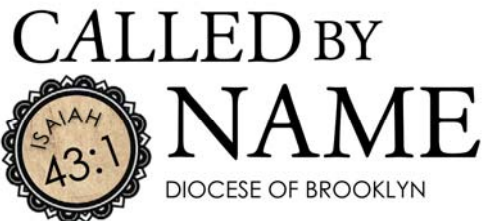
CALLED BY NAME

Bulletin Inserts

(page 3 of 3)

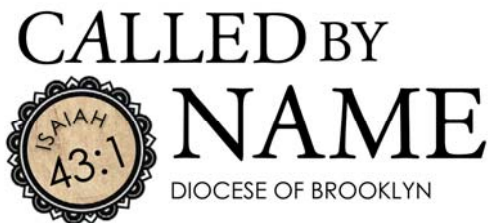
(these images are available in electronic format on www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/called_name)

Week III



REMINDER: Today, place your CALLED BY NAME response card in the collection basket or return it to the parish office. Please continue to pray for the success of this program in our parish, especially during this time of prayer for vocations.

Week IV (if necessary)



LAST CHANCE: Today, place your CALLED BY NAME response card in the collection basket or return it to the parish office. Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Remember in prayer those men and women of our parish who have been nominated, that they may appreciate their giftedness and respond to Christ's call.

CALLED BY NAME

Clip art

(clip art can be resized as needed by “stretching” corners of image)

CALLED BY



NAME

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

CALLED BY



NAME

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

Bishop DiMarzio's Vocation Prayer

(these images are available in electronic format on www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/called_name)

*May be used on any Sunday or as a prayer card
to be prayed at the beginning of parish meetings or religion education classes.*

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

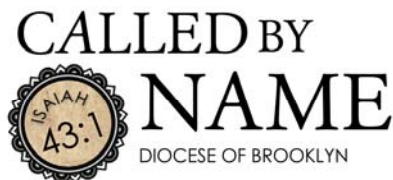
Lord of the Harvest, we petition you as you have instructed us to ask for more laborers to serve in the vineyard of Your Church. You have told us that the harvest is rich and laborers are few and we experience this great need in the face of the challenge of the New Evangelization.

We ask the Holy Spirit to inspire young men and women to seriously consider vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Help all of us to be effective instruments to encourage and support those whom you are calling to serve and lead the Church of Brooklyn and Queens in the future.

Lord, you told the Apostles to put out into the deep. We ask for the grace and courage to accept your call as we pray and work for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.

We ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ, the Great High Priest, Amen.

Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio



CALLED BY NAME Brochure

This brochure is available for two-sided printing off of our website:
www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/called_name

If you are unable to print these brochures in color, on heavier or glossy paper, please consider having them professionally printed (contact the Vocation Office for low-cost options)

You can be an instrument in helping others hear God's call.

God of gracious love,
You gathered us first
at the waters of baptism,
and you lead us through life
with faithfulness.

Raise up from among our
parish family, leaders to serve
your people as Priests, Sisters,
Brothers, and Deacons.

To those whom You call,
give grace and courage to discern
how they may best serve you.
To all of us, give us good hearts
so we might encourage them
along the way.

We ask this through
Jesus Christ, and with
your Holy Spirit,
now and forever.
Amen.

**CALLLED BY
NAME**
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

*"Fear not,
for I have
redeemed you;
I have called
you by name;
you are mine."*

Isaiah 43:1

VOCATION OFFICE
Diocese of Brooklyn
Phone: 718-827-2454
email: vocations@diobrook.org
www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/vocations
www.BrooklynPriests.org

A process of invitations
to Church vocations

Dear Friends,

The words of the prophet Isaiah still are powerful to our time today: "I have called you by name; you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1).

In a particular way the Lord Jesus, not only calls, but invites young men and women to consider the vocation to priesthood, religious life, and diaconate as a wonderful way of spending their life. It is clear that the Lord uses special people to extend this invitation so that our young people may truly hear His voice inviting them to consider a religious vocation. It was a blessing for me to experience the faith in the community that has had an influence in my own vocation to the priesthood. How important you are to the work of encouraging vocations. The Lord uses us as His instrument in planting the seed and inviting young people to consider a religious vocation.

I hope that you will take the initiative to support this program by prayerfully submitting the name(s) of any young person whom you feel might make a good priest, sister, brother, or deacon on the response cards which your parish will make available.

Thank you for all you do in support of the Church and vocations. Please pray for the continued success of this initiative and for all priests, religious and deacons.

Sincerely in Christ,
Nicholas DiMarzio
Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D.
Bishop of Brooklyn

Qualities Desired in a Candidate for Priesthood, Diaconate, and Religious Life

HE OR SHE:

- Feels good about himself/herself, has average to above average *intelligence*, and has good physical, mental and emotional *health*.
- Is willing to *sacrifice* personal or material gain for the *service* of the Gospel and the Church.
- Considers a *personal* relationship with God as an important part of life.
- Forms and maintains healthy *relationships* with both men and women.
- Has an ability and *willingness* to talk about his/her faith life.
- Has the ability to *lead* and work with people of all ages.
- Has a *desire* to serve others and make a difference in people's lives.
- Enjoys* life, people, and has a sense of humor.
- Is recognized as being *approachable*.
- Recognizes* the importance of the Church.

You will be asked to give us the name of someone whom you feel possesses these qualities as a possible candidate for priesthood, diaconate, or religious life.

Response cards will be available in church and can be submitted throughout the year.

For more information about the CALLED BY NAME program, or vocations in the Church, please call the Vocation Office at 718-827-2454 or email them at vocations@diobrook.org.

CALLED BY NAME

Parish Nomination / Recommendation Form

Name / Address	Phone / E-mail	Approx Age	Recommended For	Has person been contacted by parish staff?	Would person have support of the staff?	Comments:
1. _____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> priest <input type="checkbox"/> sister <input type="checkbox"/> brother <input type="checkbox"/> deacon	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
2. _____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> priest <input type="checkbox"/> sister <input type="checkbox"/> brother <input type="checkbox"/> deacon	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
3. _____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> priest <input type="checkbox"/> sister <input type="checkbox"/> brother <input type="checkbox"/> deacon	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
4. _____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> priest <input type="checkbox"/> sister <input type="checkbox"/> brother <input type="checkbox"/> deacon	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
5. _____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> priest <input type="checkbox"/> sister <input type="checkbox"/> brother <input type="checkbox"/> deacon	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	

The people listed above have been recommended to be invited to consider a vocation to the priesthood or religious life.
We understand that the Vocation Office will contact them to encourage them to consider church vocations.

Parish: _____ Location: _____ Parish Staff Member: _____

Please **FAX** or **EMAIL** this form to the Vocation Office:

Fax: 718-827-2167

Email: Lamore@diobrook.org