

Spirituality of Stewardship

Stewardship of Vocations

Dear Friends in Christ,

This January, Sacred Heart Parish will repeat a very successful vocation promotion initiative. "CALLED BY NAME" is a program that invites men and women, 16 years of age or older, to consider priesthood or consecrated life. This program was last used by our parish some years ago and has since been recommended by the U.S. Bishop's 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, permanent diaconate, and priesthood. The CALLED BY NAME process focuses on priesthood and consecrated life, and stresses the role of the Christian community in calling forth men and women to consider these vocations.

Parishioners are encouraged to consider who in our midst might serve well as a priest or religious and submit their names on the cards provided January 9-10 and 16-17, 2010. There are many good prospective candidates, who are simply waiting to be asked.

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. Persons nominated will be invited to a Parish Vocation Session. At this meeting, participants will learn about the call and life of a priest, deacon, or religious. They will have an opportunity to seek answers to their questions and then be invited to explore the discernment process further.

The CALLED BY NAME program is an ambitious undertaking which holds great promise for our parish and diocese. In this year when the universal Church celebrates the year of the Priest, how important it is to actively support and promote a future generation of priests and religious to serve a growing Church hungering for Christ.

God continues to call people to service as priests and religious. 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.

I am remembering you in my prayers and the masses that I offer daily.

Sincerely yours in Christ, Msgr. Louis F. Kihneman, III, Pastor