



October 1, 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

Today I am announcing a special *Called by Name* campaign to help identify faithful young men and women in our diocese who could be future leaders in our Church.

As you know, our diocese has a great need for “more workers for the harvest.” Not only do we need more Priests and Sisters, but also faithful lay disciples who will serve as leaders in our parishes. We need the entire Church to identify these future leaders so that we can offer support and encouragement as they encounter Christ and discern their vocations. For a young person, the correct discernment of their vocation may be the most important decision they make in their entire life!

Called by Name Sunday will take place on the weekend of October 21/22, 2023. On this day, I am asking for two things:

1) For Young People

For those of you discerning your life’s vocation, be open to God’s call to the priesthood or religious life. God’s calling is a beautiful gift – be courageous and open to His call! Jesus came that we might have life and have it to the full. Do not be afraid. If God is calling you to the priesthood or religious life, then nothing less will satisfy you and He will give you the grace to live that life with great joy!

2) For All Parishioners

I invite you to think deeply about the youth and young adults in your parish who you believe could be faithful leaders in the Catholic Church of the Diocese of Savannah. These young people do not necessarily need to desire to become Priests or Sisters; we also need leaders in the vocation of marriage. They need to desire Jesus Christ! They need to desire to bring others to Him.

Please submit the names of at least one (but hopefully several!) faithful young people you know. You can use the envelope provided at Mass or online at savannahvocations.org. If you submit the name of a person under age 18, please include the names of his or her parents.

This initiative is near to my heart, and I ask you to please participate thoughtfully so that it will bear much fruit throughout the diocese. I also ask you to join me in praying that the Lord will raise up many new leaders for the future of the Church!

May we meet each day in our prayers and *Rejoice in the Lord always!*

In Christ,

+ *Stephen D. Parkes*

Most Reverend Stephen D. Parkes
Bishop of Savannah

DIOCESE OF SAVANNAH † OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

2170 E. VICTORY DRIVE, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31404 (912) 201-4080 DIOSAV.ORG