



DIOCESE OF SAGINAW

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

August 28, 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and blessings to you all. Today I am announcing our first *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. It is important that all members of the Body of Christ help 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 September 14/15, 2024. 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 Saginaw. 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 whom you know that could be formed to be a leader in the Church. You can use the cards provided at Mass or online at <https://saginaw.org/Called-by-Name> . 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 prayerfully and thoughtfully so that it will bear much fruit for our 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! Let’s have humble confidence in the Lord’s desire to bless our Church!

Sincerely in Christ,

+ *Robert D. Gruss*

Most Rev. Robert Gruss
Bishop of Saginaw

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