

Diocese of Austin

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Office of the Bishop

January 9, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Blessings in this New Year!

Next weekend, January 16-17, every parish in the Diocese of Austin will be participating in a new initiative: *Called by Name Sunday*. God has known each one of us by name from all eternity and has a particular calling for us to follow. *Called by Name Sunday* is about listening and responding to God's call.

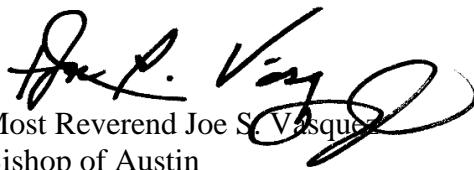
Next weekend's readings center on the theme of vocation, and our priests will share their own vocation story. As you listen to the Word of God proclaimed at Mass and reflect upon the way that God has worked in your own priest's life, please consider two things:

First – for those still discerning their life's vocation, be open to God's call. Brothers and sisters, be open to the call to the priesthood or religious life, which is a beautiful gift. 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. Be courageous and open to His call!

Second – please think of the men and women who you know and believe might have a calling to the priesthood or religious life and help us reach out to them. While God is the one who calls, He often uses our voice. Please come prepared next weekend to share the name(s) and contact information of anyone you believe might have a vocation to the priesthood or religious life so that we can send them a letter of encouragement.

Brothers and sisters, with your help, we can make *Called by Name Sunday* a great success. May all of us listen to God's call and follow where He leads. Be assured of our prayers for you as we continue to build a culture of vocations in our diocese.

Sincerely in Christ,


Most Reverend Joe S. Vasquez
Bishop of Austin


Reverend Greg Gerhart
Director of Vocations