Archdiocese of Newark
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

March 16, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in our Lord Jesus Christ!

One of my greatest responsibilities is to ensure that the faithful of the Archdiocese are served by good and holy priests. However, promoting vocations to ordained ministry is never the work of one person alone. The whole Church shares the responsibility to pray for vocations and encourage young men whom God may be calling.

Because of that responsibility, our Archdiocese will launch a special campaign, *Called by Name,* on "Good Shepherd Sunday," April 25-26, 2026. That weekend I ask you to identify young men who show faith, generosity, leadership, and who might be open to prayerfully consider the possibility of serving God and the Church as an ordained priest.

Called by Name continues our long-standing responsibility to cultivate vocations to ordained ministry. In this sense, it is part of our effort, alongside *We Are His Witnesses,* to reimagine mission and ministry to meet the needs of a changing world.

The young men you consider need not have expressed a desire for the priesthood. Rather, by nominating a young man, you are honoring his dedication to the faith, while "planting a seed" that may help him better understand God's plan for him.

I intend to personally congratulate the young men who are nominated, and the Vocation Office of the Archdiocese will follow up with support, resources, and invitations to prayer and fellowship. In no way do we intend to pressure candidates towards the priesthood. Rather, we want to invite young men in the Archdiocese to prayerfully consider God's plan for them. Your nomination may be the spark that helps a young man open his heart more fully to God's call!

Next weekend, you will receive more detailed instructions on how to submit names during Mass. But if you are ready to make a nomination today, please visit newarkpriest.com and use the online submission form. For honorees under eighteen, please include their parents' names as well.

This effort is dear to my heart. With your thoughtful participation, I am confident the Lord will raise up many new shepherds for his people. May this campaign bear lasting fruit for our Archdiocese and for the salvation of souls!

Sincerely yours in Christ the Redeemer,

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Newark

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