



DIOCESE of  SAVANNAH

CALLED BY NAME

ENCOURAGING FUTURE CATHOLIC LEADERS

HOMILY IDEAS FOR OCTOBER 21-22

The essential elements are to tell your vocation story and invite people to submit names

Elements to Include in the Homily

- Reflect on the readings
- Tell either your “conversion story” or your “vocation story”
- Share about the power of priesthood
- Encourage young people to consider a vocation in the Church
- Ask parishioners to submit names

Reflect on the Readings

[Readings for October 21 on the USCCB website](#)

First Reading: Is 45:1, 4-6

“I have called you by your name... It is I who arm you, though you know me not... I am the Lord; there is no other.”

Vocation angle: God used a great king who was not even Jewish to save his people. The moral of the story is: God can call anyone he wants to accomplish great things! Don't dismiss the possibility of a vocation to priesthood or religious life because you're a sinner, or not good enough, or because you have other plans. By far, the greatest plan for your life is God's plan! And he calls whoever he wants. The challenge is to hear and answer that call.

Second Reading: 1 Thes 1:1-5b

The beginning of the letter to the Thessalonians: “We give thanks to God always for all of you... knowing, brothers and sisters loved by God, how you were chosen.”

Vocation angle: Just as in St Paul's day, those who are chosen don't just receive “words alone.” They also receive power—power from the Holy Spirit! As the saying goes: God doesn't call the equipped; he equips those whom he calls!

Gospel: Mt 22:15-21

“Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.”

Vocation angle: What belongs to God? Everything. This is one of the simplest concepts in Christianity. Why try to wrestle our lives away from God when everything in the universe already belongs to him? Why run when our destiny is with him? And why pursue any other path in life except the one He has planned for us?

Tell Your Vocation Story

Tell the story of how you felt the call to the priesthood. Here are some prompts to help remember your journey:

- What was your family like growing up?
- How did you make your faith your own?
- What experience led you to deeper conversion?
- What happened that made you realize you could be called?
- Was there a particular priest who was a mentor to you?
- What was happening in your heart as you discerned if priesthood was your vocation?
- What prompted you to finally enter seminary?
- What was the day of your ordination like?

Alternatively, you could also share your conversion story—how you came to know and love God in a deeper way and “make your faith your own.”

Share about the Power of Priesthood

Consider briefly sharing about a moment or two when you realized the power of your priesthood.

- A powerful moment during Anointing of the Sick
- Helping converts and baptizing adults
- Ministering to families in crisis
- Helping couples prepare for marriage
- Remember that the most powerful thing you can say is simply, “I love being a priest!”

Encourage Young People

I would like to address every young man at Mass today. If no one has ever asked you, I am asking you now: will you consider becoming a priest? Or to ask it another way: If God, the creator of heaven and earth, asked you to become a priest, would you say yes? Will you listen deeply for that call?

Young women, you should know that becoming a sister is not a vocation from a bygone era. It is a very beautiful vocation, a very fulfilling vocation, and the Church very much needs strong faithful women who will say yes. And I should add: studies repeatedly show that religious sisters are some of the happiest & longest-living people on earth!

For all young people: you probably know that vocations to marriage are also declining. Be encouraged that marriage, while challenging, is a beautiful and worthwhile vocation, especially when couples are united in faith.

If God has tugged on your heart, I encourage you - do not be afraid. He loves you, and He came to give His life in order that you might have life to the full. If He is calling you to be a priest or to be a religious sister, then nothing less will satisfy your hearts. If He is calling you to marriage, there is nothing to fear and everything to gain, so be brave. Be like the first disciples. Be like

Augustine, Catherine, Ignatius, and Teresa - our older brothers and sisters who also heard the call. Remember what God says: "I have called you by name."

Ask Parishioners to Submit Names

Now I would like to make a request to our whole parish. Actually, this is Bishop Parkes' request. Called By Name Sunday is a chance to allow God to call others through you!

Is there someone you know who may be called to be a future Catholic leader, perhaps even as a priest or sister? Help us to encourage them by sharing their name and contact information. These names will go to the diocese, and they will receive a communication from our Bishop and the Vocations Office with encouragement and resources to hear and respond to God's call for their life - no matter what it is.

You can share a name in two ways: by mail or online.

To share their information by mail, fill out the envelope in your pews.

To share their name online, simply go to savannahvocations.org. You can find a QR code on the envelope to make it easier.

Alternatively, If your parish would like to mail all of these envelopes together, please give appropriate instructions here (such as drop in the collection basket).

I would really encourage you to think deeply about the young people you know and write down at least one name. If you can think of several, that is even better! They do not need to want to be priests or sisters—just faithful young people. We are trying to collect as many names as possible. Thank you for your generous response to this request.

As we turn our attention to the altar for the liturgy of the Eucharist, I encourage you to listen again as the Lord speaks these words to your heart: "I have called you by name." It is a call of love. May the grace of this Eucharist give us the courage to respond like the first disciples, to respond like the countless others who have gone before us.