

Called by Name 2026 — Parish & Pastor Toolkit

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At a glance

At the close of National Vocation Awareness Week (Nov 1–7), every parish in the Diocese of San Bernardino invites people at every Mass to share one or more names: their own, or people they know who may be called to the priesthood or religious life. The Office of Vocations then calls each person personally.

Called by Name · Llamados por su Nombre runs on two weekends:

- **Called by Name Sunday:** Nov 7–8, 2026, the closing weekend of National Vocation Awareness Week. The theme is *God calls each of us by name* (Isaiah 43:1).
- **Last-call weekend:** Nov 14–15, 2026. That Sunday's Gospel is the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14–30), a natural homily on the gifts God gives each of us.

The one ask of every pastor: after the homily at every Mass, invite people to scan the QR code or fill out a card, then collect the cards.

Goal: all 94 parishes take part, at every weekend Mass, in English and Spanish.

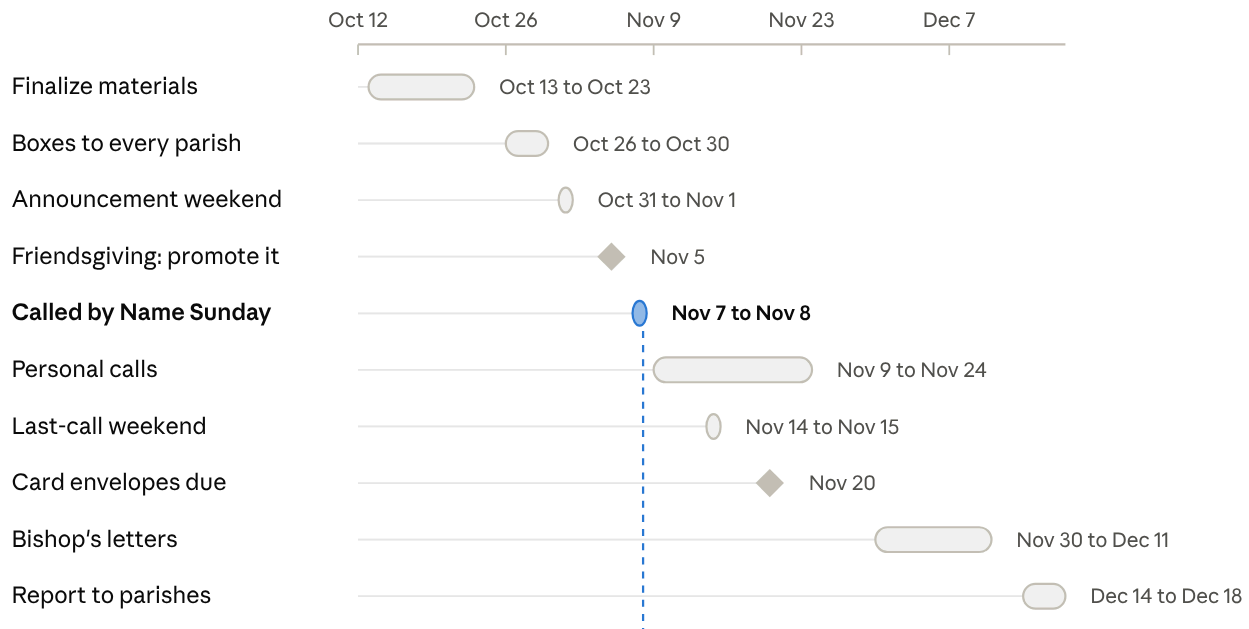
How someone shares one or more names:

- Scan the QR code to reach the online form: form.jotform.com/262845642033052
- Fill out a paper card in the pew and drop it in the basket
- Visit dsbvocations.org/recommend

Timeline

Called by Name Sunday moves to Nov 8, with a last call Nov 15

Campaign plan, Oct to Dec 2026



Called by Name 2026 · campaign timeline

Moving the campaign to Nov 7–8 and Nov 14–15 gives parishes three extra weeks to prepare. Boxes arrive by Oct 30, the announcement runs on All Saints weekend, and Friendsgiving on Nov 5 becomes a chance to promote Called by Name. Personal calls start Nov 9 and finish before Thanksgiving. The Nov 30 to Dec 11 window for the bishop's letters is a proposal to confirm with the bishop's office.

Pastor's checklist

The whole moment takes about 3 minutes per Mass. Ask one staff member or volunteer to coordinate it, so the pastor only has to preach and invite.

Before (by Oct 30)

- ☐ Name a parish Called by Name coordinator, and send their name to vocations@sbdioocese.org
- ☐ Pick up the parish box, or download the print files
- ☐ Brief every priest, deacon and homilist who preaches Nov 7–15
- ☐ Brief the ushers: cards go in the sealed envelope, never with the collection money

- ☐ Put the bulletin insert in the Nov 1 and Nov 8 bulletins, plus Flocknote, email and social media
- ☐ Hang the posters at the entrances

Announcement weekend (Oct 31–Nov 1, All Saints)

- ☐ Read the pulpit announcement at every Mass

Called by Name Sunday (Nov 7–8), at every Mass

- ☐ Before Mass, place cards and golf pencils in the pews, and the QR poster at the doors
- ☐ Use the vocation petitions in the Prayer of the Faithful
- ☐ After the homily, give the 90-second invitation, and **pause for one minute of silence** so people can scan or write
- ☐ Ushers collect the cards in the collection basket or a separate basket, then move them into the sealed Called by Name envelope
- ☐ Before the final blessing, add one sentence: "If you didn't finish, take a card home or scan the code on the poster."

Last-call weekend (Nov 14–15)

- ☐ Briefly share your own vocation story, or invite a priest, deacon, sister or seminarian to share theirs
- ☐ Invite once more, and collect late cards
- ☐ Thank the parish from the pulpit

After

- ☐ Deliver or mail the sealed envelope to the Office of Vocations by **Friday, Nov 20**
- ☐ Email one photo and a few lines about what your parish did that week to vocations@sbdiocese.org

The invitation after the homily

This script is read right after the homily and takes about 90 seconds, followed by one minute of silence. Pastors can adapt it, but please keep the three parts: a story, the ask, and the silence.

English

Before we continue, I want to ask something of every one of you. This week the Church across our country is praying for vocations. Almost every priest and sister I know began with one moment: someone looked at them and said, "Have you ever thought God might be calling you?"

This week, our whole diocese is asking that question together. In your pew is a Called by Name card. If you are discerning, write your own name. If someone comes to mind, a son, a grandson, a friend, a young woman in our youth group, someone with a generous heart and a love for Jesus, write their name. You can write more than one.

You can also scan the QR code with your phone. It takes less than a minute. The Office of Vocations will reach out personally and gently, with no pressure. Let's take one quiet minute now. Pray, and write the names God puts on your heart.

Español

Antes de continuar, quiero pedirles algo a cada uno de ustedes. Esta semana la Iglesia de todo nuestro país ora por las vocaciones. Casi todos los sacerdotes y religiosas que conozco comenzaron con un momento: alguien los miró y les dijo: "¿Has pensado que Dios te podría estar llamando?"

Esta semana, toda nuestra diócesis hace esa pregunta junta. En su banca hay una tarjeta "Llamados por su Nombre". Si usted está discerniendo, escriba su propio nombre. Si alguien le viene a la mente, un hijo, un nieto, un amigo, una joven de nuestro grupo juvenil, alguien con un corazón generoso y amor por Jesús, escriba su nombre. Puede escribir más de uno.

También puede escanear el código QR con su teléfono. Toma menos de un minuto. La Oficina de Vocaciones se comunicará personalmente, con cariño y sin presión. Tomemos ahora un minuto en silencio. Oren, y escriban los nombres que Dios ponga en su corazón.

Vocation-story prompts for the Nov 14–15 homily (Gospel: the parable of the talents)

- Who first asked you whether God might be calling you?
- What did you feel, and what almost stopped you?
- One moment in your priesthood or ministry when you knew it was worth it
- What you would say to a young person in this church who is wondering

Prayer of the Faithful

Add these petitions to the parish's Universal Prayer at every Mass on Nov 7–8 and Nov 14–15. Use two or three of them, keeping the parish's usual response.

English (response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*)

1. For the young people of our parish, that when the Lord calls them by name to the priesthood or religious life, they may answer with generous and joyful hearts. We pray to the Lord.
2. For all of us gathered here, that we may have the courage to invite and encourage those in whom we see the gifts of a priest, a sister or a brother. We pray to the Lord.
3. For our seminarians, our men and women in formation, and those discerning a call, that Jesus may strengthen them and our community support them. We pray to the Lord.
4. For our Catholic families, that they may be the first place where a vocation is heard, welcomed and blessed. We pray to the Lord.
5. For the priests, deacons and consecrated men and women who have served our parish, living and deceased, that God may reward their faithful witness. We pray to the Lord.

Español (respuesta: *Te rogamos, óyenos.*)

1. Por los jóvenes de nuestra parroquia, para que cuando el Señor los llame por su nombre al sacerdocio o a la vida religiosa, respondan con un corazón generoso y alegre. Roguemos al Señor.
2. Por todos los aquí reunidos, para que tengamos el valor de invitar y animar a quienes vemos con los dones de un sacerdote, una religiosa o un religioso. Roguemos al Señor.
3. Por nuestros seminaristas, por los hombres y mujeres en formación y por quienes discernen un llamado, para que Jesús los fortalezca y nuestra comunidad los acompañe. Roguemos al Señor.
4. Por nuestras familias católicas, para que sean el primer lugar donde una vocación se escucha, se acoge y se bendice. Roguemos al Señor.
5. Por los sacerdotes, diáconos y consagrados que han servido a nuestra parroquia, vivos y difuntos, para que Dios recompense su fiel testimonio. Roguemos al Señor.

Pulpit announcement and bulletin

Pulpit announcement, Oct 31–Nov 1 (read before the final blessing)

Next weekend, November 7–8, our parish joins every parish in the Diocese of San Bernardino for Called by Name. You will be invited to share one or more names, your own or someone else's, who may be called to the priesthood or religious life. Please pray this week about who God puts on your heart.

El próximo fin de semana, 7 y 8 de noviembre, nuestra parroquia se une a todas las parroquias de la Diócesis de San Bernardino en "Llamados por su Nombre". Se les invitará a compartir uno o más nombres, el suyo o el de otras personas, que podrían ser llamados al sacerdocio o a la vida religiosa. Oren esta semana por la persona que Dios ponga en su corazón.

Bulletin, Nov 1 and Nov 8 (paste next to the QR code)

Called by Name · Nov 7–15. Is God calling you, or someone you know, to the priesthood or religious life? Share one or more names by scanning the QR code, filling out a card in the pew, or visiting dsbvocations.org/recommend. The Office of Vocations will reach out personally, with no pressure. Questions: vocations@sbdioocese.org · 909.783.1305

Llamados por su Nombre · 7–15 de noviembre. ¿Dios te llama a ti, o a alguien que conoces, al sacerdocio o a la vida religiosa? Comparte uno o más nombres escaneando el código QR, llenando una tarjeta en la banca o visitando dsbvocations.org/recommend. La Oficina de Vocaciones se comunicará personalmente, sin presión.

Bulletin thank-you, Nov 22

Thank you! Our parish shared names during Called by Name. Please keep praying for everyone who was named. / ¡Gracias! Sigamos orando por todos los que fueron nombrados.

Collecting names and following up

Every name gets a personal phone call from the Office of Vocations within 7 days. Online forms come to the office instantly. Paper cards come in each parish's sealed envelope.

At the parish

1. Ushers collect the cards and place them unread in the sealed Called by Name envelope. Cards are never counted with or stored with the collection.
2. The coordinator delivers or mails the envelope to the Office of Vocations (12716 Oriole Ave., Grand Terrace, CA 92313) by Nov 20.

At the Office of Vocations

1. **Enter:** paper cards are typed into the same online form, so every name lives in one list.
2. **Review with the pastor:** each pastor receives his parish's list privately and can flag any concern before contact.
3. **Call within 7 days:** Fr. Hau or a team member (Cecilia, Archie or Molina) calls in English or Spanish. The call is an invitation: "Your name came up during Called by Name. How can we pray for you?"
4. **Letter:** each person receives a personal letter from Bishop Rojas.
5. **Invite:** each person is invited to a next step: Discernment Thursdays at Serra House (5–9 PM), a conversation with a vocation director, or a campus or youth event.
6. **Thank the recommender** when contact information was given.
7. **Report back** in December: each parish gets its count and a story or two to share.

Special cases

- **Under 18:** the office contacts a parent or guardian first, always.
- **Women discerning religious life:** the office makes the first call, then connects them with a sister or community.
- **Permanent diaconate:** the name is passed to the diocesan Office for Deacons, (909) 475-5160.
- **Married people or those not eligible:** a warm thank-you, and an invitation to pray for vocations.

Privacy and care

- Only the Office of Vocations and the person's pastor see the names.
- A person is not told who named them unless the recommender checked "It's okay to tell them."
- No pressure, ever. One call, one letter, one invitation. After that, the person decides.

The parish box and printing

Recommendation: yes, print the cards centrally and give every parish a box, and also post the print files online. Dioceses whose parishes got a ready-made box saw the most participation. Bridgeport mailed every parish a box with cards, homily notes, petitions and bulletin inserts. Hartford collected 506 paper nominations from 63 parishes. A box removes the pastor's work, keeps the look and the QR code consistent, and guarantees Spanish cards are in every church. The QR code keeps it cheap for anyone who prefers their phone.

What goes in each box

Item	Quantity per parish	Notes
Pew cards, English	about 1 per household at weekend Masses	4 per letter sheet on card stock, cut to 4.25" × 5.5"
Pew cards, Spanish	same rule, based on Spanish Mass attendance	separate Spanish card
Golf pencils	1 per 4 cards	reusable next year
QR posters, 11" × 17"	2 per church entrance	bilingual
Sealed return envelope	1	pre-addressed to the Office of Vocations
This toolkit, printed	1 per priest and deacon	homily invitation, petitions, bulletin

How many cards to print: ask each parish for its average weekend attendance by language, and print half that number (one card per household). A parish of 4,000 weekend attendees would need about 2,000 cards. Parishes that don't answer by Oct 23 get a default box of 600 English and 400 Spanish cards.

Distribution: hand boxes out at vicariate or deanery meetings the week of Oct 26, or have parishes pick up at Serra House. Email the PDFs to every parish office the same week.

What other dioceses learned, and how we go further

Called by Name works because most priests and religious say their call began when someone asked them. The dioceses that ran it share a pattern:

- **An announcement weekend, then a nomination weekend.** Brooklyn, Bridgeport and Salt Lake City all used this order.
- **The priest's own vocation story** is part of the homily.
- **Cards are collected in the basket**, and Bridgeport, Salt Lake City and Youngstown added online forms or QR codes.
- **A letter from the bishop** follows, with an invitation to a dinner, an event or a discernment group.
- **The pastor reviews the names** (Brooklyn, Youngstown) to protect confidentiality and flag concerns.
- **The scale can be large:** Hartford received 506 nominations from 63 parishes, and Salt Lake City cites more than 500 nominations in Jefferson City.

Hartford's lesson: cards took more than a month to arrive, and bishop letters went out two months later. Momentum fades with that kind of delay.

How San Bernardino goes further

Enhancement	Why it matters
A phone call within 7 days, not only a letter	A personal voice while the moment is still warm
Self-nomination welcomed ("My own name")	Reaches people already discerning in silence
Fully bilingual: cards, form, script, petitions	Many of our parishes celebrate Mass in Spanish
QR code and paper side by side, both landing in one list	No lost cards and no double entry
A minute of silence built into the Mass	People actually write, instead of meaning to later
Every name invited to a concrete next step, such as Discernment Thursdays	A clear door, not only a letter

Enhancement	Why it matters
"Tell us what your parish did" photo ask	We celebrate and share parish stories across the diocese
Results reported back to each parish in December	Pastors see the fruit and repeat it next year

Sources

- [Bridgeport: Called by Name parish packet \(2024\)](#)
- [Archdiocese of Hartford: Called by Name results](#)
- [Diocese of Brooklyn: Implementing the CBN Program](#)
- [Diocese of Salt Lake City: Called by Name Weekend](#)
- [Diocese of Youngstown: Called by Name and St. Andrew Dinners](#)
- [Diocese of Camden: Called by Name](#)
- [Diocese of Gary: Called by Name initiative](#)
- [Serra SPARK: Called by Name tool](#)
- [USCCB: National Vocation Awareness Week](#)
- [Diocese of San Bernardino \(Wikipedia\)](#)