



DIOCESE
OF
BRIDGEPORT

January 14, 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in our Lord Jesus Christ.

As your bishop, one of my greatest responsibilities is to ensure that the faithful of our diocese will always have good and holy priests to shepherd them. And yet, priestly vocations are never the work of one person alone. They arise when the whole Church prays for, encourages, and calls forth those men whom God has chosen.

For this reason, our diocese is once again hosting **Called by Name on February 21-22**, during which I ask you to help me identify young men who demonstrate faith, generosity, and leadership.

You may recall this initiative from last year, through which the Vocation Office received over 300 submissions. We have seen tremendous fruit from this effort, with more men in discernment groups, attending events, and being accompanied by our Vocation Team.

In fact, I am pleased to report that we accepted **10 new seminarians this past fall, bringing our total number of seminarians for the diocese to 38. We also have at least 4 men in application for the next academic year.** I thank you for your prayers, support, and participation in last year's Called By Name campaign, which have all meaningfully contributed to this growth. But our work is not done!

To continue this momentum, we want to connect with even more incredible young men this year! I invite you to nominate young men in your community who live their faith with integrity, serve generously, and show potential for Christian leadership. Your nomination may be the spark that helps a young man open his heart more fully to God's call. Don't hesitate to nominate a young man again, we want to continue to support him.

You may use the cards provided at Mass or submit names online at bridgeportpriest.org. For those under 18, 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 diocese and for the salvation of souls.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport