



DIOCESE of GAYLORD

December 7, 2025

Dear Lay Faithful,

Greetings from Gaylord.

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

Our diocese is launching a special **Called by Name campaign** on December 13-14, during which I ask that you help me identify young men who demonstrate faith, generosity and leadership.

The young men you nominate do not need to have already expressed a desire for the priesthood. Rather, we seek to honor and affirm those 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.

I ask each of you to prayerfully submit the name of at least one (or several) such young men – it may even be someone in your family, like a son, grandson or nephew. You may use the cards provided at Mass or submit names online at gaylordvocations.org. For those under 18, please include their parents' names as well.

Have no fear. Submitting a name does not mean they will be whisked off to a seminary. It will simply open a door to further explore their God-given gifts and potential.

Please take this task to heart. With your thoughtful participation, I am confident the Lord will raise up new shepherds for his people. May this campaign bear lasting fruit for our diocese and for the salvation of souls.

In Christ our Life!

Most Reverend Jeffrey J. Walsh
Bishop of Gaylord