

April 19, 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in our Lord Jesus Christ.

As your archbishop, one of my deepest responsibilities — and greatest privileges — is to help ensure that the faithful of our archdiocese are served by good and holy priests for generations to come. Yet vocations are never the work of one person alone. They blossom in the heart of the Church when families, parishes, and communities prayerfully encourage the men whom God may be calling.

Through the gentle prompting of the Holy Spirit, the Lord continues to raise up shepherds for his people.

For this reason, our archdiocese will once again host *Called by Name* on Good Shepherd Sunday, April 25–26, 2026. On that blessed weekend, I ask you to prayerfully consider nominating young men who demonstrate faith, generosity, and leadership — men who may be open to discerning God’s will for their lives.

You may recall this initiative from last year, when the Vocation Office received 955 submissions. We have already seen beautiful fruit: more men participating in discernment groups and retreats, and many being accompanied by our Vocation Team. Thanks be to God, we welcomed 23 new seminarians, with 10 more currently in application. For the 2025–26 academic year, we have 91 men in formation. Still, our hope is to welcome 40 new seminarians each year so that our parishes may be well served and the sacraments generously available to all.

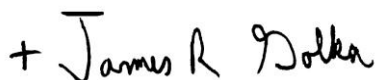
The young men you nominate need not have expressed a desire to serve in the priesthood. By sharing a name, you honor a young man’s faith and “plant a seed” that the Holy Spirit may nurture in his time. Your invitation could be the gentle encouragement that helps him listen more closely to the Lord’s voice.

I will personally congratulate those who are nominated, and our Vocation Office will offer support, resources, and invitations to discernment opportunities. We seek never to pressure, but simply to invite — trusting that God’s will unfolds in freedom and grace.

Next weekend, you will receive more detailed instructions at Mass. If you are ready to make a nomination now, please visit [denver vocations.com](http://denver vocations.com) and use the online submission form. For honorees under 18, kindly include their parents’ names.

This effort is very dear to my heart. I ask you to join me in praying that the Holy Spirit stir generously in the hearts of our young men, and that Our Lady, Mother of Priests, tenderly guide them to her Son. May the Lord raise up many faithful shepherds for his people, and may this campaign bear abundant fruit for our archdiocese and for the salvation of souls.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend James R. Golka  
Archbishop of Denver