



DIOCESE OF KNOXVILLE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

October 6, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One of the greatest gifts of our Church is the call that God places in the hearts of His people. Each of us is invited to live out our baptismal vocation in love and service. Some are called in a special way to the priesthood, diaconate, or consecrated life. Recognizing and encouraging these callings is a responsibility we share as the Body of Christ.

On the weekend of **January 17-18, 2026**, our Diocese of Knoxville will take part in the **Called By Name** program. This is an opportunity for you to prayerfully consider the young people and adults in your parish community who show qualities of faith, generosity, leadership, and love for the Church, signs that God may be calling them to serve in ordained or consecrated life.

During Mass that weekend, you will be invited to submit the names of those individuals you recognize as potential candidates. These names will be shared with the Vocation Office, and I will personally reach out to those nominated, offering encouragement, prayer, and resources for discernment.

Your participation is vital. A kind word or nomination from you may be the very encouragement someone needs to hear God's call more clearly. I ask each of you to take time this week to pray about who in your parish family the Lord may be calling by name. Together, let us build a culture of vocations where the seeds of faith are nurtured and the Church in East Tennessee continues to grow in joyful service to Christ and His people.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink. It includes a stylized cross symbol followed by the letters "Mark" and "Beckman" in a flowing script.

Most Reverend Mark Beckman
Bishop of Knoxville