DIOCESE *of* BILOXI

CALLED BY NAME

SAMPLE HOMILY
CALLED BY NAME SUNDAY
OCTOBER 21-22

Elements to Include in the Homily

- Reflect on the readings
- Tell your vocation story
- Share about the power of priesthood
- Encourage young people to consider priesthood and religious life
- Ask parishioners to submit names

Reflect on the Readings

Readings for October 22 on the USCCB website

First Reading: Is 45:1, 4-6:

"I have called you by your name… It is I who arm you, though you know me not… I am the Lord; there is no other."

Vocation angle: God used a great king who was not even Jewish to save his people. The moral of the story is: God can call anyone he wants to accomplish great things! Don't dismiss the possibility of a vocation to priesthood or religious life because you're a sinner, or not good enough, or because you have other plans. By far, the greatest plan for your life is God's plan! And he calls whoever he wants. The challenge is to hear and answer that call.

Second Reading: 1 Thes 1:1-5b

The beginning of the letter to the Thessalonians: "We give thanks to God always for all of you… knowing, brothers and sisters loved by God, how you were chosen."

Vocation angle: Just as in St Paul's day, those who are chosen don't just receive "words alone." They also receive power–power from the Holy Spirit! As the saying goes: God doesn't call the equipped; he equips those whom he calls!

Continued

Gospel: Mt 22:15-21

"Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

Vocation angle: What belongs to God? Everything. This is one of the simplest concepts in Christianity. Why try to wrestle our lives away from God when everything in the universe already belongs to him? Why run when our destiny is with him? And why run down any other path in life except the one He has planned for us?

Tell Your Vocation Story

Tell the story of how you felt the call to the priesthood. Here are some prompts to help remember your journey:

- What was your family like growing up?
- How did you make your faith your own?
- What experience led you to deeper conversion?
- What happened that made you realize you could be called?
- Was there a particular priest who was a mentor to you?
- What was happening in your heart as you discerned if priesthood was your vocation?
- What prompted you to finally enter seminary?
- What was the day of your ordination like?

Share about the Power of Priesthood

Consider briefly sharing about a moment or two when you realized the power of your priesthood.

- A powerful moment during Anointing of the Sick
- Helping converts and baptizing adults
- Ministering to families in crisis
- Helping couples prepare for marriage
- Remember that the most powerful thing you can say is simply, "I love being a priest!"

Encourage Young People

I would like to address every young man at Mass today. If no one has ever asked you, I am asking you now: will you consider becoming a priest? Or to ask it another way: If God, the creator of heaven and earth, asked you to become a priest, would you say yes? Will you listen deeply for that call?

Young women, you should know that becoming a sister is not a vocation from a bygone era. It is a very real vocation, a very fulfilling vocation, and the Church very much needs strong faithful women who will say yes.

If God has tugged on your heart in this way, I encourage you - do not be afraid. He loves you, and He came to give His life in order that you might have life to the full. If He is calling you to

be a priest or to be a religious sister, then nothing less will satisfy your hearts. There is nothing to fear and everything to gain, so be brave. Be like the first disciples. Be like Augustine, Catherine, Ignatius, and Teresa - our older brothers and sisters who also heard the call. Remember what God says: "I have called you by name."

Ask Parishioners to Submit Names

Now I would like to make a request to our whole parish. Actually, this is our bishop's request. Called By Name Sunday is a chance to allow God to call others through you!

Is there someone you know who may be called to the priesthood or religious life? Help us to encourage them by sharing their name and contact information. Those names will go to the diocese, and they will receive a communication from our Bishop and the Vocations Office with encouragement and resources to hear and respond to God's call for their life - no matter what it is.

You can share a name in two ways: online or by mail. To share their name online, simply go to biloxivocations.org. You can find that URL on the envelopes we have provided as well as a QR code that you can scan with your phone's camera.

To share their information by mail, fill out the form on the envelope. Stamp it, seal it, tear off the top to keep as a prayer card, and drop the envelope in the mail.

I would really encourage you to think deeply about the young people you know and write down at least one name. Thank you for your generous response to this request.

As we turn our attention to the altar for the liturgy of the Eucharist, I encourage you to listen again as the Lord speaks these words to your heart: "I have called you by name." It is a call of love. May the grace of this Eucharist give us the courage to respond like the first disciples, to respond like the countless others who have gone before us.