



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Office of the Bishop

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November 30th, 2025

Dear Friends,

I'm writing to you today with encouraging news: Our diocese is renewing its efforts to foster vocations to the priesthood! Fr. Peter Crowe, our Vocation Director, has developed a strategic plan to inspire future priests, and we're excited about the path ahead.

Here is an update on how our diocese is working to cultivate vocations:

- We've formed a dedicated team of **priests focused on vocation promotion**, who are actively meeting in person with young men considering the priesthood.
- These priests have been leading Discernment Small Groups, with dozens of young men already participating.
- Fr. Brian Norris has been appointed Vocation Recruiter to assist Fr. Peter Crowe (Vocations Director) and the Vocation Team to expand their outreach.
- Our "Called by Name" campaign held earlier this month has already been bearing fruit, allowing the Vocation Team to connect with many faithful young men.
- We've planned a **Calendar of Discernment Events** designed to help young men deeply explore their calling, while building much needed community.

We pray these efforts will help inspire the future priests of our diocese.

Therefore, I respectfully request your assistance with our Vocations Appeal. The appeal will be conducted during all Masses on the weekend of December 6-7. Your support will directly empower the Vocation Office's mission to guide and empower the young men in our diocese who are discerning their vocations.

With your help, and by God's grace, we will continue to form holy priests to serve the people of God in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

Sincerely in Christ,

Mark L. Barchak

Most Rev. Mark L. Barchak
Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown