



JUBILEE YEAR • 800 YEARS SINCE THE DEATH OF SAINT FRANCIS • 1226-2026

**Masthead photo:** A young friar prepares for *transitus*, the Franciscan tradition of celebrating the entrance of their patron saint into heaven. In 2026, the feast will take on special significance, as Pope Leo has declared a special jubilee year recognizing eight centuries of Francis of Assisi's profound influence on the Church.

CALLED BY NAME

**'THEY SAW SOMETHING IN ME THAT I COULDN'T SEE IN MYSELF'**

“When I first became Vocation Director, I discovered something remarkable,” said Fr. Jordan Dosch, a priest of the Diocese of Bismarck. “I was looking through our archives and discovered an old ‘Called by Name’ list from about fifteen years earlier.” The list was from a campaign during which the bishop asked people to suggest young men who might make good priests. “As I looked at this long list of hundreds of young men, I saw my own name.”

“What’s amazing to me is that when my name was submitted, I was in junior high, and wasn’t even thinking about the priesthood—I barely even understood what it was. But someone saw something in me that I couldn’t yet see in myself.”

As Fr. Dosch examined the list, he saw more names he recognized. “I checked closely, and almost all of our young priests were on that list,” he said. “And some names were on the list ten times, which is a pretty good clue!”

Fr. Dosch says lay people have an important role to play in calling forth priestly vocations. “Every young Catholic guy has to struggle at some point with whether God may be calling him,” he said. “So when you see a devout young man and ask, ‘Have you ever considered the priesthood?’ it might confirm something that is already stirring in his heart.”



Daughters of Mary of Nazareth

**The Romance of Religious Life**

Many women say, “I could never be a nun. I want a guy to sweep me off my feet. I want walks on the beach, candlelight dinners, and warm embraces.” And yet there are thousands of religious sisters who are head-over-heels in love with Jesus Christ, who relish being His bride, who will do anything to please Him, and who are too romantic to choose any other kind of life!



Fr. Jordan Dosch is currently studying canon law in Rome. He is pictured here with two deacons at their ordination in St. Peter's Basilica.



Zupa Vrtinska

## AN INDISPENSABLE VOCATION **WHY WE NEED BROTHERS**



Dominican Friars of St. Joseph

With today's shortage of priests, one might assume that any man entering a religious community would naturally go on to be ordained. Historically, however, this has never been the case. Religious life—marked by the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience—has always been recognized as a vocation in its own right, distinct from Holy Orders.

Religious brothers play a unique and essential role in the Church. Free from the demands of sacramental ministry, they are often able to devote themselves fully to works requiring long-term presence and deep personal engagement. For example, the Brotherhood of Hope, a community of all brothers, focuses on campus ministry in secular universities.

In contemplative communities such as the Cistercians, monk-brothers live in seclusion and austerity, centered on prayer and labor. Through this hidden fidelity, they bear powerful witness that God alone deserves our complete devotion because, in the end, our common vocation is union with Him in heaven.

Religious brotherhood is a vocation that deserves renewed attention by the faithful and serious consideration from young men discerning God's call.

## **A TRADITION FOR MOTHERS**



At a priest's ordination, the bishop anoints his hands with sacred chrism and wipes them with a cloth that in older rites was called a *maniturgium*. Following an ancient and beautiful tradition, a priest may give this fragrant, oil-soaked cloth to his mother after his first Mass. She carefully preserves the cloth, then at her burial, her hands are tied together as in prayer by the *maniturgium* as a sign that she has offered her son to God and the Church.



Diocese of Savannah

## **Vocation Summer Camps**

Vocations-themed summer camps—often run by priests and seminarians—are a staple in dioceses across the country. They offer a mix of prayer, friendship, and fun... and, occasionally, a lifelong calling. When telling their vocation stories, quite a few priests will tell you: *it all started at camp!*

## **PRAYER FOR PRIESTS**

*By Saint Thérèse of Lisieux*

O Jesus, I pray for Your faithful and fervent priests; for Your unfaithful and tepid priests; for Your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields; for Your tempted priests; for Your lonely and desolate priest; for Your young priests; for Your dying priests; for the souls of Your priests in Purgatory.

But above all, I recommend to You the priests dearest to me: the priest who baptized me; the priests who absolved me from my sins; the priests at whose Masses I assisted and who gave me Your Body and Blood in Holy Communion; the priests who taught and instructed me; all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way.

O Jesus, keep them all close to Your heart, and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity. *Amen*

