

Date

My Brother Priests:

In his letter to priests for Holy Thursday, 2004, Pope John Paul II wrote:

*The Christian people gives thanks to God for the gift of the Eucharist and the priesthood, while praying unceasingly that priests will never be lacking in the Church. The number of priests is never sufficient to meet the constantly increasing demands of evangelization and the pastoral care of the faithful. In some places of the world the shortage of priests is all the more urgently felt since today the number of priests is dwindling without sufficient replacements from the younger generation. In other places, thank God, we see a promising spring-time of vocations. There is also a growing awareness among the People of God of the need to pray and work actively to promote vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life.*

In an effort “to pray and work actively to promote vocations to the priesthood” in our diocese, we will be conducting the *Priestly Life and Vocation Summit: Fishers of Men* program. This program is designed to aid us in identifying and inviting possible priestly vocations from our parishes by drawing on the wisdom and experience of those serving in our presbyterate.

There are several steps to this program, culminating in a convocation day for all priest to be held at \_\_\_\_\_ *(Place)* \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ *(start time)* \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ *(end time)* \_\_\_\_\_. In the next few weeks priest in the diocese will be contact by a brother priest to be interviewed on a number of topics concerning the priesthood. These responses will be collected and summarized and used in the convocation. The convocation will be facilitated by \_\_\_\_\_ *(name)* \_\_\_\_\_.

In order that we may adequately prepare for this event, please call \_\_\_\_\_ *(name & contact information)* \_\_\_\_\_ to verify that you will be in attendance. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the vocation office.

Be assured of my continued prayers and support for all you do in priestly ministry.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop of \_\_\_\_\_