



MOST REVEREND
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December 22, 2009

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Sunday, January 10, 2010, marks for us again the beginning of National Vocation Awareness Week throughout the country.

We are presently in the midst of the Year for Priests during which all priests along with the family of God have been asked to pray for the continued growth of holiness for priests.

During this particular week, I ask that you pray more particularly for those men who are or should be discerning a vocation to the priesthood and those men and women who are or should be discerning a vocation to religious life. There are many men and women of great faith within the Church and God is calling some of them to serve His family in very particular ways. It is important that the family of God pray for and encourage those specifically called by God to accept the gift of their particular vocation and to generously offer themselves as a gift to the family of God through that vocation, be it as a religious priest, sister or brother or as a diocesan priest.

We have several men who continue in their priestly formation in seminary this year. Deacon Chris Feeney is preparing for possible ordination to the priesthood later this year. Please keep him in your prayers. If you know of someone who would make a good priest or religious brother or sister, please recommend them to your pastor or directly to our Diocesan Vocation Office.

Please also keep me, your unworthy servant, in your prayers that God may through His Holy Spirit continue to direct me in the guidance I give to His family here in the Diocese of Norwich.

May Christ, the Eternal High priest, through the intercession of Saints Patrick, Ann, and John Vianney, bless you and open the hearts of those He is calling to share in these particular vocations.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Norwich