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Dear brothers,

I hope this finds you doing well in your respective ministries. In February I had the opportunity to address our presbyterate on the topic of vocations to the priesthood, and I want to take this moment to encourage each of you to do something on the upcoming World Day of Prayer for Vocations, which is Sunday, April 30. Within the archdiocese, this day is our Annual Vocations Appeal. We need to call forth vocations from our people, which is part of shepherding them. Answering the request of one of our pastors, I have included a simple analysis of how we're doing with priestly vocations, along with a few numbers. Please feel free to share it with your people.

I ask you to preach on how God has called you to this priestly ministry. In addition, please appeal to our people to be generous in praying for and supporting vocations to the priesthood, consecrated life and permanent diaconate. In addition, the Vocation Office will be hosting Mass and a Eucharistic Holy Hour for vocations at Holy Name Cathedral on Friday, May 12, celebrated and led by the Cardinal. Everyone is welcome to attend and pray with us.

Included in this mailing are a poster, a prayer card for our ordinandi, upcoming events, an evaluation of strengths and weaknesses of vocations in our archdiocese and a Quo Vadis poster. Please hang these up in your church and school, and remember the three steps for helping with vocations: prayer, invitation and mentoring. More resources are available at ChicagoPriest.com and on ArchLink such as bulletin inserts and prayers of the faithful. Thank you for your priestly ministry and for your support of vocations. Jesus is raising up vocations in our Church!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Timothy Monahan".

Rev. Timothy Monahan