



# THE NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS, INC.

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April 24, 2013

Dear Friends:

Peace be with you! The National Black Catholic Congress (NBCC) announces a new media effort to inspire and encourage vocations to the consecrated life as a priest, deacon, brother or sister in our community. A team of dedicated leaders have developed an "awareness" vocation's poster, which we have enclosed for you as a follow up to the Congress XI Pastoral Plan of Action approved by participants at our event in Indianapolis, Indiana last summer. The purpose of the poster is to raise awareness of the vocation opportunities available and to start a conversation about the need for more vocations in our community. It will be followed by detailed media focusing on specific elements of vocations. This is the beginning of an ongoing campaign for many may be seeking consecrated life and looking to us for guidance.

***Vocations-Every Catholic's Priority***, number VIII, page 18 was highlighted in that pastoral plan.

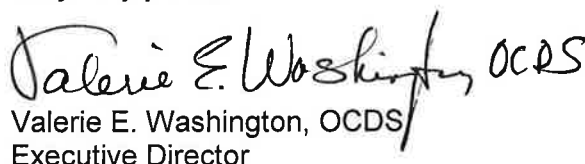
*"Keeping our beloved parishes and schools open requires keeping them staffed. Every Catholic who loves the Church must pray for, believe in and encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life. This is not just the job of vocation directors. Fortunately, the work of evangelization and vocations go hand and hand. Vocations grow when we nurture faith, catechism, prayer, and service in children and youth. There is simply no substitute in the Catholic tradition for the priest who consecrates the Eucharist and reconciles the sinner to Christ through the confessional. Because every Catholic relies on priests, every Catholic needs to make vocations a priority. The permanent diaconate and consecrated life as brothers, sisters, or lay associates contribute immensely to the universal church and the common good. Young people need to interact with clergy and religious, to see firsthand what they do and how they find fulfillment and challenge in their work."*

Visit the web site, <http://www.nbcccongress.org/features/pdf/pastoral-plan-color.pdf> to read more on the Congress XI Pastoral Plan.

Let us begin and/or continue the conversation about vocations in our community. We know that God continues to call many in our community to the consecrated life. Encourage young people to consider it. Sometimes all we have to do is ask the question, "Have you ever thought about becoming a priest, deacon, brother or sister?" Many people have said that their vocation came from a priest or other religious who asked them that simple question. The seed was already planted, and the question gave them confirmation.

We, the NBCC family, pray that vocations will flourish in our community. Let us pray that many will Say Yes to God.

Very truly yours,

  
Valerie E. Washington, OCDS  
Executive Director



# "THE HARVEST IS ABUNDANT BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW..."

MATTHEW 9:37

## Here I Am Lord, Send Me!

ISAIAH 6:8



### Answer the call to serve as a Priest, Deacon, Brother or Sister.



## SAY YES TO GOD!



For more information search religious communities on the NBCC website or contact your local diocesan vocation office.

### The National Black Catholic Congress

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