

CALLED BY NAME

nomination card

please print

Name of Person being Nominated

Approximate Age

Parish

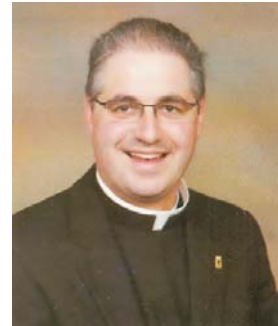
Name of Person Nominating (optional)

Please tear away and return to the pastor as soon as possible.

Pastor's Comments

PRAY ALWAYS

PRIEST PROFILE: FATHER ED HENHOEFFER



During the Year for Priests we are invited to reflect on the priesthood and vocations to the priesthood. As I reflect on my own vocation, I think about what inspired me. I grew up in a very devout Catholic family; we were always active in the parish community. As a young person I became an altar server and my parish had a wonderful pastor, Father Ed Sheridan, who helped us build our community and our church. He gave me a great example of what it means to be a pastor, to be a priest, to be someone who really cared and loved the people of God entrusted to his care.

I love being a priest and sharing this ministry with people.

As I reflect on my own call, it was possibly in high school that I first thought about priesthood but I didn't really give this serious consideration until I was studying in university. When I was in my second year of university I made the decision to enter the seminary. In the seminary, the opportunity for daily Mass, for spiritual direction and the friendships with those also discerning God's call really opened my heart in new ways to listen to God. I was able to take the life of prayer more seriously and to enter more deeply into

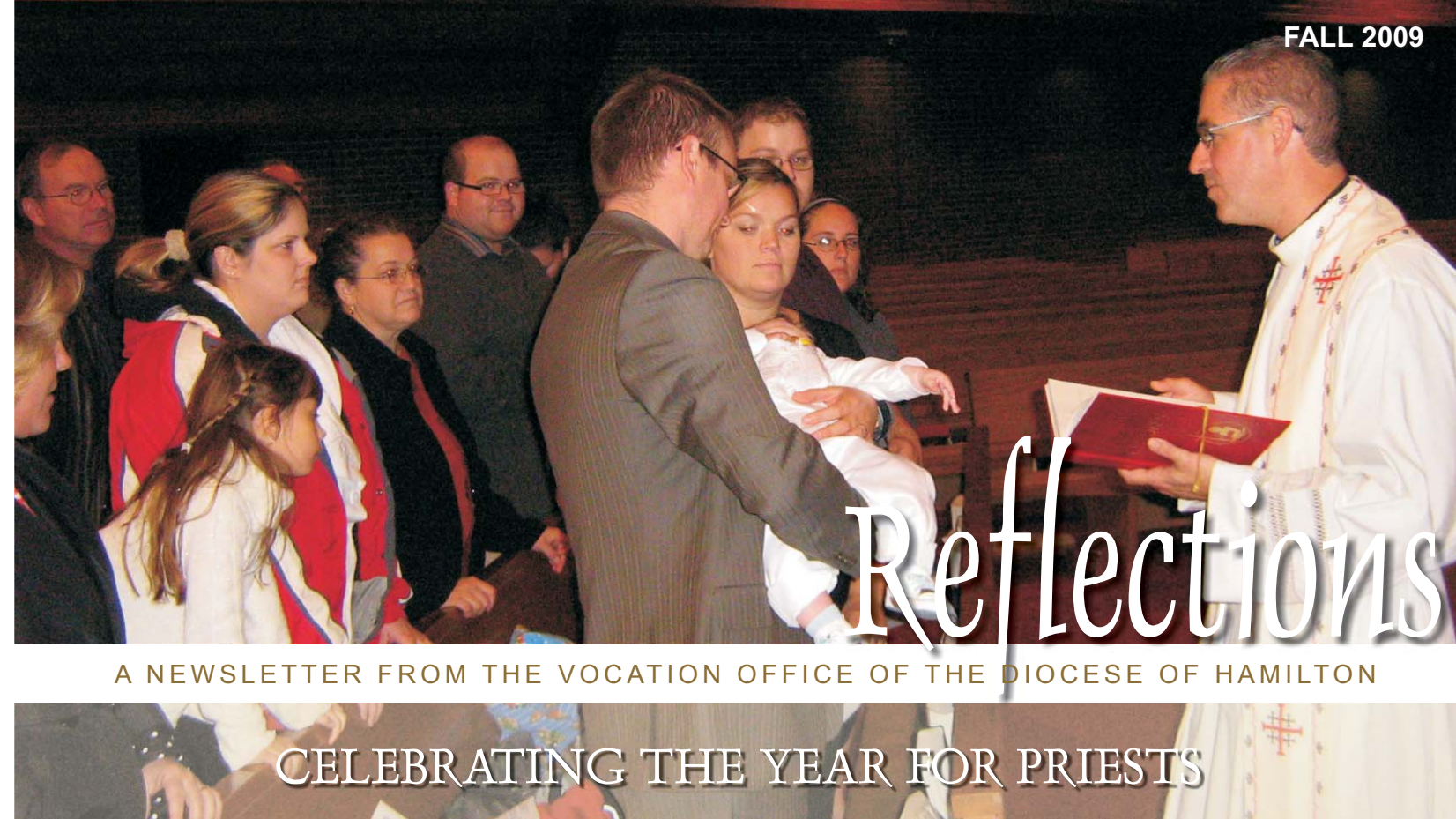
prayer. I think very often when young men feel called to priesthood it is in the sense of doing things for God. We want to serve the Lord, we want to go out and be like missionaries, to be active in our work but that activity needs to be really nurtured in the life of prayer.

As I speak about prayer, I remember something that Pope John Paul II wrote in his book "Crossing the Threshold of Hope", in which he said that prayer is not only the search for God but it is the revelation of God's love to us. Those aren't the exact words but they convey the idea that prayer is a search but also the revelation of God. Receiving from God is the most important dimension in the life of the priest whose ministry varies from day to day: sacramental preparation, comforting of the dying, attending to the sick, parish administration, visiting schools and homeletic preparation. All of these things are very different but you give yourself as best as you are able based on what you have received from the Lord. The real constant of my day is that time spent in prayer before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament to receive from Him in order that I may have something to bring to the people. Rooted in prayer, we go forth to serve the people whether we are warmly received or indifferently received, whether it is a comfortable or uncomfortable situation, trusting that it is the Lord who is with us, strengthening us and supporting us.

One of the questions people ask is what advice I would give to someone considering the priesthood? Prayer is the first and most important piece of advice that I can give. Take time to be with the Lord, to open your heart to the presence of Jesus, the particular presence of Jesus in the sacraments, especially in the Mass and the Holy Eucharist. Spend time in prayer before Our Lord in the Eucharist, and receive the sacrament of Confession regularly. Seek the words and advice of a priest that you may know. Approach a priest whom you respect and with whom you feel comfortable and just ask him questions. Be open to God's grace and trust that the Lord is with you, that He will continue to call you, to strengthen and confirm that call through different people and different ways. Recognize that the choice of the seminary is not the choice for priesthood. It doesn't mean that you are going to be ordained tomorrow. So go, make that decision to enter seminary, to open your heart to formation and the friendships that you will make there. Remember that the Lord will lead and direct you.

I love being a priest and sharing this ministry with people. The Lord Jesus has always been great in strengthening me and showing me His love. Even in times of difficult situations, there is always some sign that God is with me. For those thinking of the priesthood, don't be afraid to respond to the call of God in your life.

To view a video profile of Fr. Henhoeffler, visit us online at www.vocationinfo.ca



Reflections

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE VOCATION OFFICE OF THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

CELEBRATING THE YEAR FOR PRIESTS

CALLED BY NAME:

MESSAGE FROM THE VOCATION DIRECTOR



This past June, Pope Benedict XVI inaugurated a "Year for Priests" marking the 150th anniversary of the death of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests. In his

homily on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Holy Father exhorts us to pray for priests: "The Church needs holy priests; ministers capable of helping the faithful to experience the Lord's merciful love, and convinced witnesses of that love...let us ask the Lord to set the heart of every priest afire with that "pastoral charity" which can make him one in heart and mind with Jesus the High Priest, and thus to imitate Jesus in complete self-giving."

In this edition of *Reflections*, we present the vocation story of Father Ed

Henhoeffler, the pastor of St. John Parish in Guelph. He invites us to reflect on the importance of prayer in response to the call to holiness and loving service.

The Church needs holy priests

We also present the "Called by Name" program which invites you to put forth the names of those whom you think may be called to priesthood or religious life. The newsletter includes a tear away nomination card that you are asked to fill in and return to the pastor. Your participation in this initiative may serve to awaken in those being called a greater openness to the plan of God. To further encourage those among us whom the Lord is choosing, we also offer a brief profile of the seminarians who began their studies for the holy priesthood this past September.



CONTACT US

Reflections is published by the Vocation Office of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton. For more information, resources on discerning the call or to view video profiles of priests in our Diocese, please visit us online at www.vocationinfo.ca

700 King Street West | Hamilton, ON | L8P 1C7
T: 905.528.7988 ext 2240 | F: 905.528.1088 | web: www.vocationinfo.ca



Editor: Fr. Kevin Cull
Designed: www.grafico.ca





YEAR FOR PRIESTS

His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, has proclaimed a Year for Priests from June 19, 2009 to June 19, 2010.

"I ask Mary to awaken in the heart of every priest a generous and renewed commitment to the ideal of complete self-oblation to Christ and the Church which inspired the thoughts and actions of the saintly Curé of Ars. It was his fervent prayer life and his impassioned love of Christ Crucified that enabled John Mary Vianney to grow daily in his total self-oblation to God and the Church..."

- Pope Benedict XVI

For resources and more information on the Year for Priests, St. John Vianney or to view video profiles of priests in the Diocese of Hamilton, please visit the Vocation Hamilton website at www.vocationinfo.ca

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Dear Lord,

we pray that the Blessed Mother wrap her mantle around your priests and through her intercession strengthen them for their ministry.

We pray that Mary will guide your priests to follow her own words,

"Do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5).

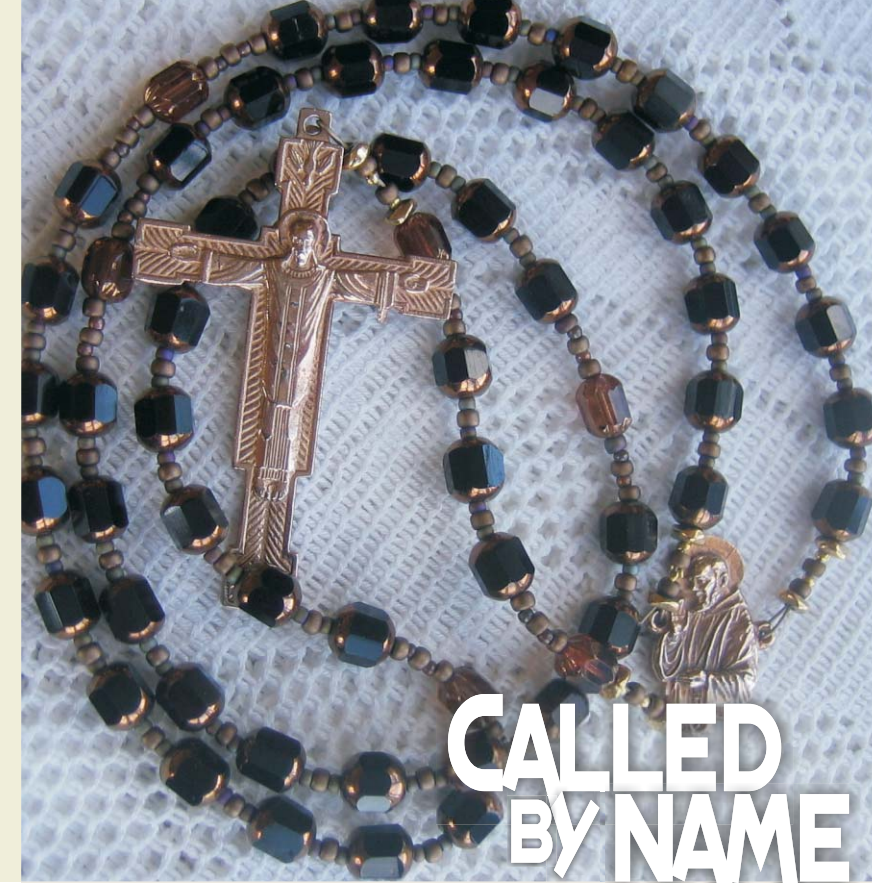
May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph, Mary's most chaste spouse.

May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart inspire them to embrace all who suffer at the foot of the cross.

May your priests be holy, filled with the fire of your love seeking nothing but your greater glory and the salvation of souls.

Amen.

Saint John Vianney, pray for us.



**CALLED
BY NAME**

OUR NEW SEMINARIANS

I encourage you to read the brief biographies of each of our 7 new seminarians and to especially note the importance they attribute to a daily life of prayer and the great gift of the Holy Eucharist. I believe that many young people are being called to serve the Church and are willing to embrace the joy and the challenge of living for Christ and others. I am so deeply grateful for my own vocation to priesthood; and I sincerely pray that the personal sharing of the seminarians may inspire those whom the Lord is calling to priesthood and religious life to respond with open and generous hearts. Please continue to remember all of the seminarians in your prayers.

Fr. Cull, Vocation Director



Bradley Black

Born in Markdale, Ont., 1991
Home Parish: St. Peter, Durham
St. Philip Neri Seminary, First Year Philosophy

About Bradley: *"The journey to discerning one's vocation is not something easy. By spending time in Eucharistic Adoration though it became apparent to me that my goal in life should be to do the will of God. Through prayer and the sacraments, the will of God has become clearer and to serve as a priest would be one of the greatest things I could do to serve Him."*

Hobbies: Music, playing violin and piano, sports, reading, spending time with family.



Michael Czesnik

Born in Kitchener, Ont., 1990
Home Parish: St. Aloysius, Kitchener
St. Philip Neri Seminary, First Year Philosophy

About Michael: *"In the latter part of high school I began to progress in my relationship with Christ through a stronger dedication to daily prayer and a deeper reverence at Holy Mass. Within this context of prayer, I became more aware of the Lord calling me to seminary. Answering God's call by entering seminary is a unique opportunity for me to surrender myself to the will of Christ and to grow in faith and trust in God."*

Hobbies: Cycling, badminton, squash, reading, chess.



Grayson Hope

Born in Timmins, Ont., 1986
Home Parish: Our Lady of Lourdes, Waterloo
St. Philip Neri Seminary, First Year Philosophy

About Grayson: *"The Lord placed the calling of the priesthood in my heart soon after I was asked to serve daily Mass when I was eighteen. The calling has only grown stronger as I grow more in love with the Lord in the Eucharist. Daily quiet prayer is especially important to hear the call of the Lord which might otherwise not be heard in the noise of our daily routine. Deciding to enter seminary, following the will of the Lord, has been the best decision of my life."*

Hobbies: Baseball, chant, trombone, guitar, politics, apologetics.



Robert Koechl

Born in Kitchener, Ont., 1981
Home Parish: St. Joseph, Fergus
St. Augustine Seminary, First Year Theology

About Robert: *"My call to the priesthood has been more of a slow and gradual realization and knowledge of who I am. Answering this call and giving my life in all that I do everyday, a pouring out of myself to God, is a completion of my very self. This offering of myself could only have happened through closeness to God in prayer and especially daily Eucharist."*

Hobbies: Singing, playing guitar, reading, watching movies, playing sports, enjoying the company of friends and family.



Curtis Miller

Born in Kitchener, Ont., 1991
Home Parish: St. Agnes, Waterloo
St. Philip Neri Seminary, First Year Philosophy

About Curtis: *"The importance of the Eucharist in every Christian's life is paramount for it is the source and summit of the Christian life. For myself it is the greatest and most tangible consolation I have in my day. Daily prayer orients my routine and helps me to respond more fully to God's invitation to enter into a deeper love with Him and His people."*

Hobbies: Camping, hockey, playing the violin, going on pilgrimage.



Aaron Sanvido

Born in Guelph, Ont., 1991
Home Parish: Sacred Heart, Guelph
St. Philip Neri Seminary, First Year Philosophy

About Aaron: *"The call to the Holy Priesthood is something I have felt for much of my life. Though there have been moments during which I became interested in other possible directions for my future, the thought of the priesthood is one which has always returned. From an early age, I felt this calling manifesting itself through my close relationship with my uncle, Father Don Sanvido, and also through a growing desire to serve God and to put Him first in my life."*

Hobbies: Philosophy, reading, golf, baseball.



Adam Solomon

Born in Cambridge, Ont., 1983
Home Parish: St. Mary of the Visitation, Camb.
St. Philip Neri Seminary, First Year Philosophy

About Adam: *"To be able to commit myself to answering God's call has been one of the greatest gifts He has given me. I feel humbled that I should be considered for such an undertaking. I feel very blessed being able to receive the Eucharist daily while studying and praying within the seminary, and to receive the spiritual direction necessary for the human and spiritual formation required of a man preparing for Holy Orders."*

Hobbies: Building and flying remote controlled aircraft, reading, gardening, studying music, travel.

The work of encouraging and fostering vocations belongs to every member of the Christian community. One of the simplest ways of exercising this responsibility is to recognize and affirm those among us whom the Lord may be calling to priesthood or religious life. The **"Called by Name"** program invites you to prayerfully consider putting forth the names of those 17 years of age or older whom you think may have a vocation. The following questions may be helpful in assisting you to nominate individuals.

- Does the person approach the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist with reverence? Do you think that a commitment to a daily life of prayer is important to this person?
- Does the person relate well with others and display an interest in the welfare of others, especially those in need? Is the person involved in a parish ministry or some service to the community?
- Does the person possess leadership qualities? Does the person have the intelligence and good health necessary to serve as a leader?
- Does the person exhibit good moral character and serve as a role model for others?

Please complete the tear away nomination card and return it to the pastor. As a way of encouraging those whom you nominate, you may wish to speak to those individuals to affirm their goodness and remind them that you are praying for them. Upon receipt of the cards submitted by the pastor to the vocation office, an information package will be sent to those who have been nominated including an invitation to attend the discernment groups for men and women that meet each month.