

## Fr. Martin's Reflection – 10/24/21 Bulletin

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last Sunday, October 17, Bishop O'Connell celebrated mass in the Cathedral to mark the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Trenton. After coming back from a pilgrimage to the historical religious sites of France, which were 1000's of years old, Trenton seems like a baby. A baby the diocese may be, but in those 140 years great sacrifices were made and the faith nourished and shared with many 1000's of people.

For the Diocese of Trenton to continue to serve God's people we need to continue to encourage each other to listen and respond to God's call to care and feed God's people. Two years ago, the Diocese launched a program called, '**Called By Name,**' where we were asked to submit a name(s) of someone you felt had the signs of been called to be a priest. Thirty-nine percent of the parishes responded (I know, low – our priests need motivating too) and the response was very impressive, and several gatherings took place, and the discussions were very interesting. As we all know COVID hit, and everything went on the back burner.

The Diocese is relaunching '**Called By Name**' on the weekend of November 6-7, and November 13-14. Cards will be placed on the seats once again and I would ask you to pray for someone you feel may have a vocation to the priesthood and consider putting their name forward. You may mail the cards to the parish office or drop them into the collection basket or bring them to the office during office hours. Thank you and please continue to pray for God's Church in the Diocese of Trenton.

At the mass on October 17, the Bishop also officially launched the Sixteenth Ordinary Synod of Bishops. This is the Synodal Pope Francis asked all the bishops of our Church to gather the people and begin the process of 'Listening' to the voices of God's people and prepare God's Church for the decades ahead. Bishop O'Connell has asked all priests to pray this prayer during the celebration of mass. I ask that you also include it in your personal and family prayer.

### **Prayer for the Sixteenth Ordinary Synod of Bishops**

**We gather together in Your name, Holy Spirit.**

**With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;**

**Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.**

**We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.**

**Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.**

**Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray  
from the way of truth and what is right.**

**All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father,  
and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.**

May God's love be your guide for the week ahead.

*Fr. Martin*