HIGH CALLING

PROGRAM

Bi-Annual Report

Prepared for: High Calling Program Episcopal Advisory Board

Prepared by: The High Calling Program and the Initiative for Priestly Renewal

October 14, 2026

Table of Contents

Purpose 2

Vocational Development Outreach 2

Discernment (Pre-Propaedeutic) Formation 3

- Small Group Formation 4
- Staffing Update 4
- Events 4
  - Past Events 4
  - Upcoming Events 4

Propaedeutic Formation (Seminaries) 5

Formator Formation - Initiative for Priestly Renewal 5

- Events 5
  - Past Events 5
  - Upcoming Events 6

Upcoming Reports 6

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the scope and impact of the High Calling Program and its partnership with the Initiative for Priestly Renewal.

The High Calling Program is structured around four key components: Vocational Development Outreach, Discernment (Pre-Propaedeutic) Formation, Propaedeutic Formation (Seminaries), and Formator Formation.

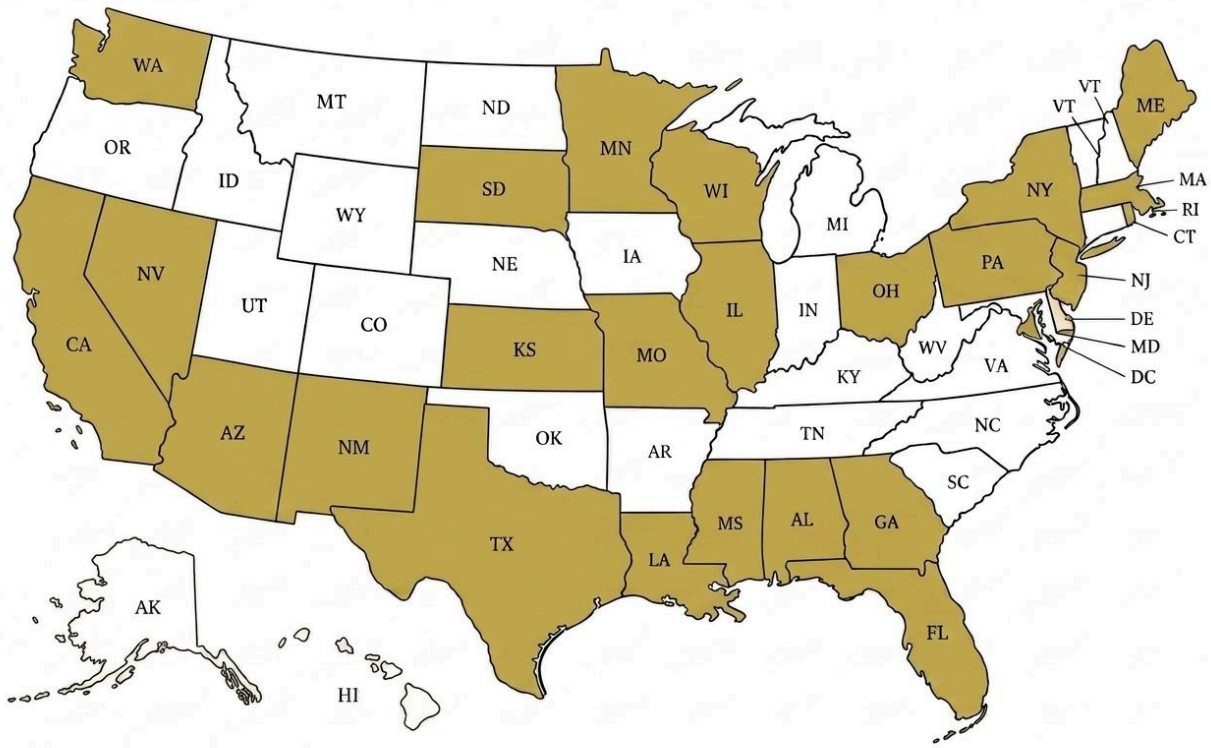
Vocational Development Outreach
High Calling Program

- In the first three years of this initiative, High Calling facilitated meaningful discussions with 50 men, resulting in a total of 25 men enrolling in the High Calling Program.
- In 2026 alone, High Calling has been in 48 serious conversations with men about discernment; 22 of these men enrolled in the High Calling Program, while the remaining 26 are in ongoing dialogue with a High Calling mentor.
- To strengthen mentorship and respond to increasing demand, High Calling added a fourth mentor, Jeffrey Hahn.

2026 Vocational Development Outreach			
48	22	26	4
Serious conversations	Enrollments from outreach	Men in ongoing mentor dialogue	Mentors

Discernment (Pre-Propaedeutic) Formation

High Calling Program



2026-27 Enrollment as of Early October 2026	
60	U.S. Dioceses & Orders Served
4	Int'l Dioceses & Orders Served (Canada, Australia, Trinidad & Tobago, Ireland)
139	Participants Enrolled

2026-27 Key Program Dates	
September 22, 2026	Orientation Night
September 23, 2026	First Module Start
May 12, 2027	Program Conclusion

Small Group Formation

- Beginning in October, we will initiate monthly small group sessions for our participants. Our dedicated team of High Calling Mentors will facilitate these groups. The intent of these small groups is to provide opportunities for continued discussion of the modules and to foster fellowship and esprit de corps among the men.
- Quote from discerner's end-of-year survey last year:
    - "They were really wonderful. I got to just speak heart to heart with guys in my situation, which was fantastic."
    - "Our [small group] discussions were incredibly thought-provoking and very authentic - extremely valuable."

Staffing Update

- In September 2026, Victoria McClorey joined the High Calling Program as Administrative Assistant to Dr. Joseph Hollcraft, succeeding the program's previous Administrative Assistant.
- A fourth mentor, Jeffrey Hahn, was added to the High Calling Program to strengthen mentorship and respond to increasing demand.

Events

Past Events

- Relationship-building visits with the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., Diocese of Joliet, Diocese of Phoenix, Diocese of Tucson, and Archdiocese of Kansas City reinforced bonds with diocesan vocation directors and staff.
- The National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD) 2026 in Huntington, New York saw connections with 40+ new vocation directors, garnered eight first-time dioceses to the High Calling Program, and laid the groundwork for future participants.

Upcoming Events

- Relationship-building visits are scheduled to the Archdiocese of Atlanta in November 2026 and to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in December 2026.
- Tabling and meetings are planned for the SEEK Conference in Columbus, Ohio from January 1-5, 2027, in order to be present to college-aged men discerning the priesthood and vocations directors.
- Rector's Dinner in Rome, Italy for April 2027 (planning stages).

Propaedeutic Formation (Seminaries)
High Calling Program

- The 2026-27 Propaedeutic Program at Mount St. Mary's began September 8, 2026, with the opening module led by Dr. John Bergsma.
- Propaedeutic men being served in 2026-27: 35
- Total of propaedeutic men served from 2023-2026: 101

Formator Formation
Initiative for Priestly Renewal

Events

Past Events

- Priest convocations and retreats with the Archdiocese of San Francisco from April 19-23, 2026, and the Archdiocese of Denver from July 27-30, 2026, served 60 priests.
- The St. John Vianney Confessor's Institute with Bishop Colaccico from July 6-10, 2026, served 31 priests.
- The Spiritual Direction Symposium with the Diocese of Rockville Center from August 6-9, 2026, served 23 priests (sponsorship).
- The Spiritual Direction Program for Priests kicked off with a retreat in St. Augustine, Florida, from October 5-9, 2026, with 28 priests. The program will continue through May 2027.
- One-on-one consultations were held with 8 priests worldwide who were in crisis or seeking spiritual direction.

Events in 2026		
26	150	6
New Dioceses/Orders Represented	Priests Served	Events

Upcoming Events

- Spiritual Direction retreats will be held internationally in New Zealand with Bishop John Adams from January 27-30, 2027, and in Sydney, Australia from February 3-6, 2027.
- A Spiritual Direction retreat will be held in Baltimore, Maryland, in March 2027.
- A St. John Vianney Confessor's Institute will be held in Los Angeles, California, in Spring 2026, and the National Confessor's Institute will be held in Santa Cruz, California, in June 2027.

Upcoming Reports

- Fifth Report: May 2027
- Next online Board Meeting to be held on February 16, 2026, at 2:30 PM Eastern.