

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA



September 8, 2023
Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Dear Brother Priests,

The Archdiocese of Atlanta is blessed with many young men and women desiring to grow in their faith and love of God. Their devotion to the Church and to Christ in the Eucharist is inspiring and I know many of them are hungering to serve God on a very personal level. I believe the Lord is calling many from this local church to the priesthood or religious life. With the incredible growth in number and zeal of our faithful, I know there are many young men and women who feel the call, but need extra support and encouragement to respond courageously. We must work together to create a culture of vocational discernment in our communities. A great part of this relies on our own witness; never underestimate the power of your joy and the profound impact of a personal invitation.

National Vocations Awareness Week is November 5-11. We are planning several events and opportunities to engage discerners throughout the week. These will be published in detail for promotion in a separate communication. We especially need your help promoting and encouraging people to attend our Archdiocesan Vocations Fair on November 11, at the Cathedral of Christ the King. We will begin with Mass celebrated with one of our bishops at 10 am followed by the Vocations Fair in Kenny Hall. This will be an opportunity for parishioners to meet priests, and men and women religious from around the Archdiocese and beyond.

This event is meant for **everyone**. I hope you will encourage your parishioners, children, teenagers, young adults, parents, grandparents, families, discerners and seekers, to come and see how so many men and women have responded to the Lord's invitation. Last year's fair was an encouraging and inspiring gathering!

The Vocations Fair will be well advertised, but I am relying on your support in encouraging discerners to attend. We will be sending information to your DRE and Youth Ministers to promote it as we get closer. All priests in the Archdiocese are invited to concelebrate Mass that morning. Please email Sally Scardasis sscardasis@archatl.com if you plan on concelebrating.

Please join in me in prayer for the success of this event and for all participating. I hope to see many of you there! Please mark your calendars now.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rey Pineda'.

Reverend Rey Pineda
Director of Vocations