

# CALLED BEYOND

## Coordinators' Manual

National Office for Vocation 2018

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# CALLED BEYOND

## What does Called Beyond offer a parish?

*Called Beyond* is a parish vocations week. It enables a parish to begin developing a culture of vocation over the long term.

## How does a parish go about this?

This is a parish week, not a national week. So the Parish Priest and one or two parishioners decide they want to explore this and meet the Diocesan Vocations Director to discuss it. If they agree to go ahead, then a parish team is set up to receive training and resources.

## What does Called Beyond look like in practice?

Planning begins several months before the week starts. The week begins on Sunday with a specially planned Mass at which parishioners are asked to express their Christian vocation by going 'beyond the call of duty' in their daily lives this week. Each day there is a different public event held outside parish premises. The second Sunday concludes the week at which the team describe the vital work of continuing to develop the culture of vocation in the parish.

## What sorts of events take place?

Coffee with Father in a coffee shop when a priest describes his vocation. At Home with a married couple describing their vocation. An Evening with the Sisters when a local community invite people to meet them. Signposts to help young people make good life choices. Inspirations as people describe those following different vocations to their own.

## What is Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment?

This is the theme of the next meeting of the Synod of Bishops in Rome in 2018. Pope Francis is asking the whole Church to develop new ways of accompanying young people as they discover their calling. *Called Beyond* is a way of preparing your parish for this task.

## What support does a parish receive?

The National Office for Vocation will offer regional training days and at least 2 lay people from each parish team attend. A web site will provide video and printed guidance for each liturgy and each event. Publicity materials, available via another web site, can be customised online to advertise events before being printed professionally and sent directly to the parish.

## Why should a parish do this?

By celebrating the many vocations through which people live as disciples of Christ, more people may come to hear Christ calling them to a specific vocation. *Called Beyond* enables a parish to grow into a community that not only strengthens everybody in their vocation but also accompanies those questioning their future, especially the young and those in distress. To develop such a culture of vocation is a service to the church and to the local community.

## Introduction

God continues to call people to a variety of vocations and if we want more people to hear that call we need to celebrate it. *Called Beyond* is a week when everybody in a parish is invited to live intentionally beyond the call of duty and to meet in new ways to hear fresh insights about the vocations of single and married lay people, priests and nuns. Through the events of this week a parish community can become more focused on encouraging all vocations.

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This manual offers a variety of resources for those who want to prepare, lead and follow up the week. In addition a website is in development. The Vocations Director of your diocese will also be on hand to help.

Thank you for choosing to be involved and for creating *Called Beyond* in your parish. You and your team are the essential foundation of this initiative: may your vocation be enriched through this project.

# Getting started

*Called Beyond* can be used in a variety of ways to enable a parish to develop a culture of vocation that fosters discipleship and discernment. The resources provided are flexible so that you can choose which ones to use to support exactly how you want to run *Called Beyond* in your community.

The week will help the whole parish - individuals, groups and the entire worshipping community - to encounter different themes within the culture of vocation. It provides an opportunity for all to ask how they can go 'beyond the call of duty' and for a sense of vocation to become deeply embedded in the life of your parish.

That's why *Called Beyond* has been created to reach 100 per cent of the parish community. It is different to other parish programmes. This project invites you, the parish leaders and volunteers, to go beyond the 'usual' methods you might use when organising an activity, and to try something new. This means everyone will be included somehow, whether through a light introduction to the themes during the Sunday Liturgy or by a more detailed exploration for those parishioners who attend the events and engage in the follow up.

This manual, and the other resources provided, will help you do this. You will be supported to consider carefully how you will prepare your parishioners, how the Sunday Liturgy can celebrate vocation and how to host several engaging parish events to reach beyond the usual attenders.

## Forming a Called Beyond Team

Training and materials are provided to guide you through the process of preparing and running the programme. The first task is to gather a team of volunteers to help plan and facilitate the *Called Beyond* programme in the parish. The exact size of this team will vary from parish to parish. It is assumed the parish priest will be part of the group or at least he, or a member of the parish team, will take part in the planning meetings as much as possible.

## Who should you invite to join the team?

The parish priest, or the parish team, is often best placed to discern and invite members for the *Called Beyond* team. It may work to start by selecting one or two key people, and then working together to select and invite others.

Consider selecting a mix of people reflecting the diversity of the parish; young and old, men and women, parishioners from some of the different ethnicities represented in the community. *Called Beyond* also provides an opportunity to invite new people, not already involved in parish activities, so keep an open mind. Everyone in the team should be committed to the vision of *Called Beyond* and to pray for its success.

There are then five main responsibilities for the team, and membership of the team should reflect this, drawing people together who can help with the following:

**Promotion and Communication:** You will need people on the team with a commitment to organising all the communication, including personal invitation to parish events, so your team will need to include those who can inspire others.

**Liturgy:** People on the team will need to help to prepare the liturgy with the parish team, for the two Sunday Masses during the *Called Beyond* Week

**Parish Events:** You will need to ensure the events are organised (from venues, to speakers, to excellent hospitality).

**Youth and Children:** There are several ways in which children and young people can engage with *Called Beyond*, and someone on the team should have a special responsibility for considering this.

**Coordination:** Collaborating with others, someone (or two people) will need to ensure that everything is practically prepared for every aspect of the programme.

## How to invite people to join the team

A personal invitation is best. At this stage, do not use newsletters or announcements at Mass to issue a general invitation. Instead, you should consider carefully who to invite to join the team, and who is best to invite them. Does one of you have a strong rapport with an individual? They may be the best person to invite. Or it may be best for the parish priest to invite, to show them how much the individual is valued and the responsibility the parish would like to trust them with.

Don't be worried about whether someone might refuse – it's all right if people can't help – but ensure that you offer them a genuine invitation so they can make an informed decision. Here's a tried and tested method of inviting someone:

- i) Before you mention that you want their help engage them with the overall idea. Explain that you want to run *Called Beyond* in the parish, and tell them a bit about it, and what it will achieve.
- ii) Get their 'buy in', by asking them what they think about it and whether they think it's a good idea.
- iii) Tell them that you think they have something to offer *Called Beyond* and a unique part to play in making it happen.
- iv) Explain the specific way they can help, appropriate to their skills and motivations (e.g. with preparing the Liturgy).
- iv) Ask them if they will help. Explain what will be involved, and that there will be support provided. (You may need to offer specific help to overcome any barriers for them to get involved e.g. support with travel to meetings, or help with child care arrangements.)
- v) Thank them, whether they say yes or no. If they do say no, encourage them still to be involved in the programme. If they say yes, explain the next step.

In summary, nothing replaces the power of a personal invitation. A face-to-face approach such as the following is far more powerful than a notice in the newsletter:

**“We are about to start a new initiative... [explain]. What do you think? It is important to the parish, and we need some people to help make it happen. I think you would enjoy it, and I think you would bring a lot to it. Your experience/skill in [e.g. young people] would really help. Would you consider coming to an initial meeting to find out more about it?”**

# Getting Practical

After you have created your *Called Beyond* team, there are four main stages to *Called Beyond*:

- Getting ready for *Called Beyond* in the Parish
- Creating a climate of expectation in the parish several weeks before you begin
- Hosting the '*Called Beyond*' parish week (Sunday to Sunday)
- The follow up

## The Called Beyond Timetable

### Month 1

- Two key volunteers attend Diocesan training
- The key volunteers work with the Parish Priest or Parish Team to identify other volunteers to form the *Called Beyond* team

### Month Two

- *Called Beyond* team meet to familiarise themselves with the programme and to make all the necessary arrangements to be ready to:
  - create a climate of expectation in the parish through the Liturgy and promotion
  - include *Called Beyond* in the two Sunday Masses during the *Called Beyond* Week
  - host several events during the *Called Beyond* Week
  - include young people and children

### Month Three

- Begin to build the climate of expectation in the parish
- Complete final preparations for the *Called Beyond* Week

### Month Four

- Host the *Called Beyond* Week
  - Sunday 1 – Exploring the *Called Beyond* Themes and inviting everyone to go 'Beyond the Call of Duty'. Invitation to Parish Events
  - Parish events through the week"
    - *Coffee with Father in a coffee shop when a priest describes his vocation*
    - *At Home with a married couple describing their vocation*
    - *An Evening with the Sisters when a local community invite people to meet them*
    - *Signposts to help young people make good life choices*
    - *Inspirations as people describe those following different vocations to their own.*
  - Sunday 2 – Celebration of Vocation commitment to prayer and Action (Called Called Beyond team meet afterwards to reflect on the week and to consider how the parish will follow up (e.g. starting a parish vocations' group)

# Getting organized

Let's return to look more closely at the responsibilities of the *Called Beyond* team:

## Coordination

This obviously overlaps all of the other responsibilities. You will need to ensure that within the team are enough people who can get organised and make things happen, from printing the materials, to organising the events and ensuring everything is practically prepared for every aspect of the programme.

## Materials to support you and the team:

Meeting Plans 1-3 (in the appendix of this manual) - to support your initial meetings

*Called Beyond* Week Timeline - so that everyone knows what you are planning to achieve.

## Promotion and Communication

This will involve raising awareness of *Called Beyond* in the parish at least one month before the programme begins. This creates a 'climate of expectation' that something is going to happen. You will need to ensure that posters, banners, newsletter inserts and social media are all used to generate as much engagement from the parish as possible. You can also create your own bespoke promotion. Remember that personal invitation is also the key to participation, especially in the parish events, so consider who is best to invite people.

## Materials to support the team:

Engaging the whole Parish

Newsletter inserts and Mass notices

Social Media Guidelines

## Materials for the team to order via the website:

Posters

Banners

Beyond The Call of Duty Leaflet

Event Card (which you can bespoke on the back)

## Liturgy

In the Sundays leading up to the *Called Beyond* Week, and over the two Sundays during the week itself, you will need to help to prepare the inclusion of *Called Beyond* in the liturgy, working closely with the parish priest or parish team. During the preceding weeks this is relatively simple, perhaps including a bidding prayer for the success of *Called Beyond*. The two main Sundays will need careful preparation, to reflect the themes of *Called Beyond* throughout the Sunday Mass.

## Materials to support the team:

Guidelines for Liturgy Preparation

Homily Notes

Bidding Prayers

## Parish Events

In addition to preparing the Liturgy, the other main focus is preparing the parish events. These events take place outside the parish buildings, to create a different context and to highlight how our vocation is lived out in the midst of our communities. So, for example, the event exploring marriage may take place in the home of a married couple. Working closely with others responsible for promotion (who will oversee the inviting), you will need to ensure the events are organised.

## Materials to support the team:

General Event Guidelines and Hospitality Sheet (appendix IV) – to help you consider how to create the ideal environment for your events

Individual Event Guidelines - to help you consider venues for all the events and all the practicalities

Speakers Guidelines - to help you consider how to find and invite your speakers

## Youth and Children

There are several ways in which children and young people can engage with *Called Beyond*, and someone on the team should have a special responsibility for considering this. There are resources to help prepare the children's Liturgy of the Word, to reflect the themes of *Called Beyond*. Resources are also available to host a young people's event\*. You can also liaise with the Catholic schools to consider who they can link to the parish programme.

## Materials to support the team:

Guidelines for Children's Liturgy.

\*If you want to host a local youth event, contact your Diocesan Vocations Director

## Called Beyond Team Meetings

At least six weeks in advance of starting *Called Beyond*, the planning team should meet to pray together and reflect upon the vision of the programme and their responsibilities, and then to make all their preparations. Meeting guides are provided below to support the team in their initial meetings.

## The Follow Up

The final part of the programme leads you to plan the follow up. Further training will be provided for you to develop this plan.