

*Feast of St. Charles Borromeo*  
November 4, 2009

Dear Vocation Director,

For several years now, the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, in collaboration with CARA, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, has been compiling information regarding men who are ordained to priesthood within a particular year. This information has always been presented to the media, both secular and religious, in order to give the media positive and accurate information regarding the hundreds of men who are ordained each year. In doing so, we hope that the Catholic faithful will witness the dedicated, faith-filled men responding courageously to the Lord's call to priesthood. This process has spanned more than ten years and it has become quite useful in tracking trends (i.e., age, ethnic backgrounds, etc.).

The information we produce for the Class of 2010 will be very important. We would like to be in a position to provide to the media an image of the men coming from our seminaries today. Needless to say, your assistance in offering these images of men responding to the Lord's call to the priesthood will assist us in the success of this project. You can help us in this effort by providing CARA with the names and contact information (e-mail, phone, and seminary, if applicable) of the men from your arch/diocese who are scheduled to be ordained priests in 2010. At your earliest convenience, please send the list of your 2010 ordinandi to Mary Gauthier at CARA: [gautierm@georgetown.edu](mailto:gautierm@georgetown.edu)

CARA will contact each ordinand in January 2010 and request that he complete a brief questionnaire. The data that we receive from the ordinands will be processed, analyzed, and placed in a public relations format before being presented to the media. If you have any questions regarding these matters, please feel free to contact me: [dtoups@usccb.org](mailto:dtoups@usccb.org)

On behalf of the bishops' committee that I serve, I wish to express my profound gratitude for all that you do in vocation ministry. I promise to remember you frequently in prayer and do all that I can to assist you in your efforts. May the Lord continue to bless your ministry during this *Year for Priests*.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. David Toups

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