Vox Populi

22 October 2026

“Vocations are not born from the application of organisational strategies or carefully devised campaigns but from prayer, familiarity with the Gospel, silence, the ability to welcome one another with our imperfections, and a sense of belonging to a whole that creates unity.”

These were the words spoken by Pope Leo XIV just a few weeks ago.

In the past few years, the Diocese of Broken Bay has nurtured a culture of vocations. It has encouraged young people to sit in silence, to listen to God and to deeply discern where God may be calling them.

But as Pope Leo XIV said, this cannot be done without a sense of belonging and the prayers of the community.

Last year, Archbishop Anthony Randazzo, along with the Vocations Broken Bay team, launched the first Seminarians’ Benefit Gala Dinner, aimed at supporting young men discerning and studying for the priesthood. Not only did it raise tens of thousands of dollars to support the seminarians, it also encouraged people to engage in a culture of prayer and support for those discerning. Since then, the Diocese has ordained three new priests and had three young men enter seminary to begin priestly formation.

Pope Leo XIV has spoken about the support required from everyone to build up a culture where vocations are encouraged and nurtured. “I invite everyone — in families, parishes and religious communities, as well as bishops, priests, deacons, catechists, educators and all the faithful — to commit themselves more fully to creating conditions that allow this gift of participation in the life of Jesus Christ] to be embraced, nourished, protected and accompanied, so that it may bear abundant fruit,” he said in April, on the 63rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

This year, the Seminarians’ Benefit Gala Dinner will be held again, on the evening of Friday, 6 November, at The Epping Club, Epping. This is a chance to support and pray for our seminarians as a community, encouraging all of those discerning or studying to continue to answer God’s call.

Please join our Diocesan Administrator, Fr David Ranson, Vocations Director, Fr Joey Frez, colleagues and friends for this wonderful night of welcome, conviviality, and support.
Book a parish table at https://www.trybooking.com/DQIIK