**SAMPLE LETTER TO BISHOP KNESTOUT FROM LEMI CANDIDATE FOR COMMISSIONING**

The Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout

Catholic Diocese of Richmond

7800 Carousel Lane

Richmond, Virginia 23294-4201

May 20, 2022

Dear Bishop Knestout,

As I approach the end of my Lay Ecclesial Minister formation, I reflect on what an incredible journey the past four years have been for me and my family. The amount of growth and knowledge acquired has been both terrifying and joyful. I take very seriously the trust placed in me by the diocese and all involved in the LEMI program.

What a delight it is to be among those being commissioned in June. I am looking forward to the work of a commissioned Lay Ecclesial Minister and am excited to share my knowledge and experience with the parishes of this diocese.

I lost my dad eight years before the Holy Spirit and Fr. D. guided me to the decision to apply to the LEMI program. Since I began, my 84-year-old mother reminds me how proud my dad would be of me. I believe that my dad and I share a deep love of God and the Church as well as a heart for service to His people.

Commissioning will be a little bittersweet. This great milestone in my life, will be the first to come to fruition since my father's passing. I will miss seeing his face, but I will be able to see his love and pride in my mother's.

Thank you for your continued support of the LEMI program in our diocese. If I may speak for my cohorts, we are proud to serve you and the people of the Richmond Diocese.

Faithfully yours,

(Signature)

Full Name
Coordinator of Religious Education

Parish Name, Richmond