



Diocese of
Green Bay

Seminarian Directory

2019-2020

Office of **Vocations**

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A letter from the **Vocation Director**



St. Charles Borromeo Stained Glass Window
St. Anne Parish | Lena, WI

to reform and restore her integrity, and this began with those studying for the priesthood. He founded schools and seminaries for those studying for the priesthood, as well as colleges for those already ordained. To ensure the proper reforms were taking place, he went and visited these institutions to inspect for himself the progress being made.

In the end, St. Charles Borromeo felt that if the People of God were going to be converted to living a life of missionary discipleship, it started with the bishops, priests, and deacons to provide an example of what that looks like. As the Vocation Director for the diocese, I couldn't agree more. Now more than ever, we need good, holy, faithful, prayerful, and loving shepherds for our parishes to bring us Jesus in word and sacrament. This doesn't automatically happen on ordination day, but something that needs to be cultivated from the first day of seminary. With this in mind, it made perfect sense to have St. Charles Borromeo be our patron saint for this academic year to intercede for our men as they continue to be formed into Christ the Shepherd.

I wish to thank you for all that you do to support priestly vocations within our diocese. Please know of my prayers for you, and God bless!

When I was accepted to enter the seminary, I received a small gift from my younger brother. He went to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help, better known to us having grown up near it as "the Chapel," and he bought me a small medal. When he gave it to me, I didn't recognize the saint on the front of it until I read the name. It was a medal of St. Charles Borromeo, whom I knew nothing about. My brother told me that a priest who was there at the time told him he was the patron saint of seminarians, so he decided to buy it for me. From that day onward, I attached it to my scapular and wore it until the day of my ordination to the priesthood. Once I was ordained, I switched it out for a medal of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of priests.

St. Charles Borromeo was selected as the patron saint of seminarians because of his work of reforming seminaries and priestly formation during his time as Cardinal Archbishop of Milan. He was active in the time after the Protestant Reformation, and he rightly worked to drive out any corruption within the Church. For him, this started with the hierarchy. In his mind, the greatest defense against Protestant claims against the Catholic Church and her hierarchy was



Rev. Mark C. Mleziva

Rev. Mark Mleziva
Vocation Director

Daily Prayer Calendar

*Please pray one Hail Mary a day for our seminarians,
through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Help.*

1 - Dcn. Benjamin Johnson
2 - Dcn. Kevin Ripley
3 - Patrick Costello
4 - Matthew Colle
5 - Michael Uchtyl
6 - Andrew LeGreve
7 - Ben Pribbenow
8 - Brandon Lewandowski
9 - Jace Scheffler
10 - Juan Altamirano
11 - Nicholas Stellpflug
12 - Nathan Budde

13 - James Kanning
14 - Michael Vance
15 - Dcn. Benjamin Johnson
16 - Dcn. Kevin Ripley
17 - Patrick Costello
18 - Matthew Colle
19 - Michael Uchtyl
20 - Andrew LeGreve
21 - Ben Pribbenow
22 - Brandon Lewandowski
23 - Jace Scheffler
24 - Juan Altamirano

25 - Nicholas Stellpflug
26 - Nathan Budde
27 - James Kanning
28 - Michael Vance
29 - Most Rev. David L. Ricken,
Bishop of Green Bay
30 - Rev. Mark Mleziva,
Vocation Director
31 - Rev. Adam Bradley,
Assistant Vocation Director

HOW DO I KNOW?

Is God calling you to the priesthood?

Think and pray about these questions:

- Do I have a strong, personal faith in Jesus Christ and his Bride the Church?
- Do I love people?
- Do I love the Eucharist and the sacraments of the Church?
- Do I have the desire to help people know God's love for them?
- Do I have a persistent inner feeling that God may want me to do this?
- Am I physically and emotionally healthy?
- Do I have an enthusiasm for learning and studying?
- Do others support me in this direction?
- Am I active in my parish?
- Do I have the gifts to serve the Church in leadership?
- With the help of God, could I possibly be called to a celibate life?
- Am I willing to make a sacrifice for the good of others?

A VOCATION PRAYER

by Bishop David L. Ricken

Almighty God,
You have given me the gift of life,
and the gift of your Holy Spirit.
For these incredible gifts, I thank you.
Help me to use them well.

Deepen within me a desire to do your will.
Help me to hear and answer your call to serve
you.

Guide me to the vocation
you have chosen for me,
as a loving spouse and parent in the
Sacrament of Marriage,
as a single person living a life
of generous service,
or through a special call to serve you
in Religious Life or the Priesthood.

May your Holy Spirit keep me always close
to your Son Jesus,
and help me to say yes to Him
with the gift of my life.
Amen.



REV. MR. BENJAMIN JOHNSON

SEMINARY

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Theology IV

BIRTHDAY

June 22

PARISH

Most Blessed Sacrament Parish,
Oshkosh

CONTACT

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INTERCESSOR

St. Joseph, because he is a perfect model of fatherhood, particularly in his receptivity and cooperation with grace. If I can one day be 10% the father that he was, then I will be well on the road to sainthood!

What is your baptismal day and in which church?

I was baptized Oct. 10, 1993, at St. Raphael the Archangel Church in Oshkosh.

What is your favorite devotional and why?

I am a big fan of the Jesus Prayer, one of the oldest devotions in the church that can be traced back even to the Desert Fathers in the fifth century. I love it for its simplicity, its strength, and how it is integrated into your very breath: on your inhale, you pray "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God ..." and on the exhale, "... have mercy on me, a sinner." Formally, this can be repeated 33 or 100 times, but there are no strict rules, and I occasionally find myself recalling this prayer when I pause to take a breath.

What was one misconception you had about seminary and how did that change?

Before I entered seminary, I was afraid that I would have to say goodbye to many things in my life and radically change myself to become what God needed me to be. And while there have certainly been some sacrifices, I was humbly overjoyed to find that God did not want me to try to become some carbon-copy priest. He simply wanted me, with quirks intact, to become who he has already designed me to be. Because of my seminary formation, I feel more true to myself and my God than ever before, and I am so very happy my fears were proved false.

What would your life be like without a cellphone?

This is hard to answer. For sure, it would be very different. On the positive side, I would probably be more present to the present moment and not be distracted by the steady flow of notifications that come in throughout the day. On the negative side, this would mean my only option for long-distance communication would be traditional mail. Planning events and meetups with friends would be much more difficult and less likely to happen, and I would be hopelessly lost without navigation. There is no question that cellphones are powerful tools for us, but I also do not believe many of us (myself certainly included) truly use them for our mission to spread the Gospel and proclaim the Kingdom. Many times, I have wondered, "How would Thomas Aquinas, who walked countless miles during his life just for his research, use this device?"

What is the funniest thing that happened to you in formation thus far?

One time, I was visiting a friend of mine on the third floor. Now, for context, this section of the seminary residence is notorious for being loud and rowdy. I opened the door to the hallway and not even two steps in, a golf ball whizzes past my head. I look down the corridor and see another classmate at the end of the hall, chipping away at golf balls. "Hey watch it, that almost killed me!" I shouted. "Almost," he responded, with an almost diabolical chuckle, as he resumed chipping golf balls. While evading the incoming enemy fire, I dashed forward to my friend's room and barged in seeking shelter. The experience was terrifying, but amusing.

Who or what was the greatest influence in your discernment of the priesthood?

The award for this one goes to my spiritual director, who has been a constant source of support, clarity, and advice for the past three years. Whether I am on cloud nine, or I feel as if the world is going insane, his direction has kept me centered on Christ.

What does it mean to be a missionary disciple?

To be a missionary disciple is to take the goodness that you have received and share it with the world. It is a spontaneous movement that occurs when one has truly received Christ in word and sacrament. A similar, though insufficient comparison, would be when someone has won the lottery. They immediately feel a strong impetus to share this news with loved ones, so that they might rejoice with them.



REV. MR. KEVIN RIPLEY

SEMINARY

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Theology IV

BIRTHDAY

October 10

PARISH

Assumption of the Blessed
Virgin Mary Parish, Pulaski

CONTACT

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INTERCESSOR

St. Paul, because this year I visited the place of St. Stephen's martyrdom and the place of Paul's trial in Caesarea Maritima, and I am being drawn more towards him and his teachings.

What is your baptismal day and in which church?

My baptismal day is Nov. 16, 1991, just two days after my confirmation day. It was at Assumption BVM Parish in Pulaski.

What is your favorite devotional and why?

It took a while for me to catch on to it, but in college I started praying the rosary more regularly. Someone told me that you should not discern a vocation without Mary being a part of it. Now I find praying the rosary daily to be a great help to my faith as I meditate on the mysteries and life of Jesus. Going to the Holy Land this past year further transformed my experience, as I got to visit all the actual places of the mysteries — except the Coronation of Mary.

What was one misconception you had about seminary and how did that change?

Going into seminary, I did not know much about it. However, I did get a chance to read the book *"To Save a Thousand Souls,"* which talks about the classes and usual daily routine of seminary life. One thing that surprised me was how much priests are expected to have learned before ordination. Not to scare anybody away, but I thought my final year of engineering school was difficult. Little did I know that a full course load of philosophy and religion would be just as formidable or more. That being said, I have greatly enjoyed my studies.

What would your life be like without a cellphone?

Some years ago, I decided to put my phone on vibrate at all times and switched to using a plug-in clock. That has been nice, but sometimes I still think I feel my phone vibrating in my pocket even though nobody is calling. Without the cellphone, I would not be thinking about it and about what I could do with it. Because of that, I would be more present to those around me. When it comes to making calls, I would have to use a landline or Internet phone, and people would have to have different expectations of how quickly I return their calls. There was a guy I read about who got rid of everything and just began writing letters instead. For him it was liberating, but I think we can learn to detach and see cellphones more as tools.

What is the funniest thing that happened to you in formation thus far?

When my class went to Galilee for our retreat before diaconate ordination, we first went for a boat ride out on the water. How picturesque! With rolling hills off to the west and east, scattered clouds and the shores and blue water Jesus walked on, you could not ask for much better. However, the captain of the boat had some bread with which we could attract and feed the seagulls. A friend of mine reached over and jokingly touched my head, trying to make me think that a seagull pooped on me. Just a moment later, as I was reclining on the bow of the boat, a large dollop of seagull poop landed on the top of my head! Apparently he is a seagull whisperer.

Who or what was the greatest influence in your discernment of the priesthood?

Having a group of guys my age to talk and pray about the priesthood was of great help to me in college. We could share our personal concerns and hopes while seeing how others were considering the same thing.

What does it mean to be a missionary disciple?

To be, or not to be, that is the question. It requires some decisions and grace. Disciples take on their faith for their own and let Jesus into the center of their lives. Then, missionary disciples invite and help others to do the same.



PATRICK COSTELLO

SEMINARY

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Theology III

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BIRTHDAY

April 15

PARISH

St. Margaret Mary Parish,
Neenah

CONTACT

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INTERCESSOR

St. Thérèse of Lisieux,
because I directly credit her
with getting me to seminary. I
was reading her book "*Story
of a Soul*," when my college
chaplain noticed that and then
encouraged me to pray about
going to the seminary. This
year, I ask her to help me grow
in love for Jesus.

PG5

What is your baptismal day and in which church?

On April 22, 1990, at Our Lady of Victory in Paris, Texas.

What is your favorite devotional and why?

The most holy rosary — since I was young boy; I remember praying the rosary with my grandparents whenever we stayed at their home or whenever they were visiting us at our home. My whole family would join my grandpa and grandma, and this is where I first heard and meditated upon the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, and (a bit later) the Luminous Mysteries of Our Lord's life. The rosary is my favorite because Jesus is always at the center. In fact, the word *Iesus* ("Jesus") is exactly the center word of the Ave Maria prayer (the Hail Mary) when prayed in Latin.

What was one misconception you had about seminary and how did that change?

My misconception was that seminary was not for me. In college I attended the Vigil Mass for Life at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. At that Mass I recall seeing all the seminarians processing in and being so impressed to see that many young men becoming priests. Yet, for some reason, I assumed that seminary and being a priest was not my calling. Since being in seminary I have realized that the seminary is precisely where the Lord wants me so I can become the man and priest he has called me to be.

What would your life be like without a cellphone?

Like many people, I use my cellphone (a smartphone) for a variety of purposes. It can serve as my alarm, phone, Internet browser, news source, email, camera, photo album, weather source, library, notepad, music player, video player, map, calendar, voice recorder, scanner, bank, wallet and sometimes a breviary prayer book (although I really do not like praying off of a screen). Without a smartphone I would not have such a "one-stop shop" that could handle all these different functions. So maybe my life would be a bit more complicated by having to constantly consider all the tools I would need throughout the day. That said, I would certainly have less distractions throughout the day (texts, calls, notifications, news updates, etc.) and would probably get more reading done. To cut down on the distractions, I have tried to delete unnecessary and time-sinking apps (Youtube!) and have turned off most notifications.

What is the funniest thing that happened to you in formation thus far?

A very funny moment sticks out to me during my first year in seminary when I was teaching confirmation class to seventh graders. I was covering the theology of the Eucharist and introducing them to the Catholic doctrine of transubstantiation: how at Mass the bread and wine substantially change into the Body and Blood of Jesus. I wrote out the word on a whiteboard and proceeded to tell them about how this is a philosophical word with Latin roots, *trans-substantia* (change of/through the substance). But when the students began to speak of transubstantiation, they kept saying something that sounded off. They just could not quite pronounce it. Eventually, I turned around and realized that I had misspelled on the whiteboard and had actually written "transubstantion."

Who or what was the greatest influence in your discernment of the priesthood?

The book "*To Save a Thousand Souls*" by Fr. Brett Brannen was a great influence as I discerned the priesthood. During college, I was in a discernment group with other guys and we read this book together. Today, multiple men from that group are in seminary or serious priesthood discernment.

What does it mean to be a missionary disciple?

The Gospel of Matthew is the only Gospel that gives Jesus the last word: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." A missionary disciple priest baptizes, teaches, and knows that Jesus is with us always.



MATTHEW COLLE

SEMINARY

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Theology II

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BIRTHDAY

October 21

PARISH

Immaculate Conception Parish, Luxemburg

CONTACT

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INTERCESSOR

Mother Teresa, so that she gives me strength every morning to face Jesus and say yes to his will for me that day. This is especially the case when the work or tasks of the day seem small and insignificant. May I do all things for love of Jesus.

What is your baptismal day and in which church?

I was baptized Sunday, Nov. 4, 1990, at St. Mary Church in Luxemburg, exactly two weeks after I was born.

What is your favorite devotional and why?

The rosary. It has become a daily devotional for me during this past year in Rome. I must admit that I do not always pray the rosary with the most focus or desire. In addition, despite feeling at times that it is ineffective, I am reminded that prayer is always effective. I sometimes reflect on how my vocation was nurtured during my college years at UW-River Falls when my call to holiness was often the last thing on my mind. Yet, on my four-hour drive home from college, I would often pray a few rosaries. Mary was certainly working.

What was one misconception you had about seminary and how did that change?

I thought that once I entered seminary, it would be all sunshine and rainbows. After all, I would be doing the will of God. However, the honeymoon phase wore off within a few weeks. Despite being filled with excitement for the eight months prior to entering seminary, I quickly became discouraged. I realized that my area of study, philosophy, was not my favorite. In addition, the daily routine became monotonous. However, in prayer, when I would go back to the place when I first felt called to the priesthood, the Lord would give me peace.

What would your life be like without a cellphone?

Like heaven! In heaven, there would be no need for a cellphone because the only one we desire to see would be present to us face-to-face. Likewise, I feel called to be present to those that God has put before me. Oftentimes, my phone has kept me from coming to know and love my neighbor. For instance, during the fall semester in Rome, I found it nice and easy to check NFL football scores on my phone every Monday morning. It simply fed my desire to know now. However, doing so just turned me in on myself. After some time, I decided to refrain from checking the scores on my phone in the morning. Instead, I waited until later to check scores and watch highlights with a brother seminarian. As a result, our relationship grew not only as sports fans but also as friends and seminarians.

What is the funniest thing that happened to you in formation thus far?

A story from last year at the North American College in Rome: I returned from classes to the college at around 11 a.m. one Tuesday morning. For me, Tuesday meant laundry day. You need to know that as a theology student in Rome, I wear clerics to class. This day, the clerics that I wore needed to be washed, so I changed into khaki dress slacks and a polo shirt. I then proceeded to do laundry. As usual, I finished folding two minutes before 1:15 p.m. lunch, so I rushed up to the refectory. Upon entering, I was swarmed by a few priests on formation faculty saying, "You have to be in clerics." I thought, "Whoops, just like every other lunch and how all the other 150 seminarians are dressed."

Who or what was the greatest influence in your discernment of the priesthood?

The Vandal Catholics! This group of Catholic students at the University of Idaho actively sought to live their call to holiness. Getting involved with them helped direct my attention and energy to following the will of God. The campus priest, Fr. Vogel, is the biggest reason I am in seminary.

What does it mean to be a missionary disciple?

To conform your life to Christ. This summer, I worked and prayed with the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta. Obviously, the order founded by Mother Teresa is known for serving the poorest of the poor. However, serving the poor is not simply their job. Their service of the poor flows totally and freely from their love of Jesus and his love of them. Their conformity to Christ is rooted in the Eucharist and prayer.



MICHAEL UCHYTIL

SEMINARY

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Theology II

BIRTHDAY

May 10

PARISH

SS. Peter and Paul Parish,
Hortonville

CONTACT

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INTERCESSOR

Blessed Solanus Casey,
to remember to thank God
ahead of time for his abundant
blessings.

What is your baptismal day and in which church?

June 4, 1994, at St. Mary Church in Greenville.

What is your favorite devotional and why?

I love Eucharistic adoration. There is nothing like entering into silence with our Lord exposed in the monstrance. To speak with him face-to-face similar to how I would with any of my other friends. Or perhaps sitting quietly in his presence, simply soaking in his love. I remember doing this quite often on hard days during my collegiate and working years in the adoration chapels at St. Pius X, Appleton, and St. Margaret Mary, Neenah. Simply, quietly, gazing into the “eyes” of my Creator and in gazing into them, falling in love with love himself.

What was one misconception you had about seminary and how did that change?

One misconception was that seminary was basically “priest school” — a place of study just like any other university, but simply focusing on philosophy, theology, and everything priest related. This changed when I began formation three years ago and learned that seminary was more than just going to class (the Intellectual Dimensions). It also meant growing in human virtue (the Human Dimensions), learning how to be a spiritual father (the Pastoral Dimensions), and ultimately, falling deeply in love with God and his bride, the church (the Spiritual Dimensions). In short, seminary is a place of discernment and formation towards the priesthood.

What would your life be like without a cellphone?

As a millennial, I can’t even begin to appreciate the convenience which modern cellphones offer us today. When was the last time you used a payphone? Party line? Pager? Which do you prefer to navigate with: a Garmin or Google Maps? How often do you send letters in the mail? Now, most of these tools are rolled into a small, convenient package. Yet, I think my life would be more relaxing without one ... at least in some ways. Unfortunately, the same connectivity which makes it a great tool, also has a knack for interrupting one’s day with a bombardment of notifications. This last year, I experimented with a dumbphone and much to my surprise, found myself more relaxed and present with others once the shock of inconvenience and FOMO (fear of missing out) anxiety wore away. And while I have swapped back for the sake of ministry, this experiment has simplified my future cellphone usage.

What is the funniest thing that happened to you in formation thus far?

A few years ago, I mistakenly responded at the wrong time during a Mass. When the priest is praying Eucharistic Prayer 1, there is a line towards the end which reads “through Christ Our Lord” and after pausing briefly, the priest continues on to pray the doxology. Normally, there is no response. But on this particular day, this especially long pause was interrupted by one booming “AMEN!!!” — which could be heard throughout the chapel — by me. A simple mistake, and one which commonly occurs within the parish. But because we were in a seminary and my “amen” was spoken with such gusto and confidence, the priest celebrating Mass cracked up laughing and spent 15 seconds recomposing himself before he could finish.

Who or what was the greatest influence in your discernment of the priesthood?

My parents. They planted the seeds of faith through teaching me catechism and going to Sunday Mass. Moreover, they illustrated the beauty of sacrificial love through their 29 years of marriage. Now, having seen the attractiveness of faithfully living one’s vocation, I desire to follow their example through the priesthood.

What does it mean to be a missionary disciple?

To share the joy of the Gospel with others! The joy of sharing intimate communion with God through prayer and encountering him in the sacraments and his word. This loving communion is not static, but fruitful; sharing itself with others through one’s marriage, priesthood, religious life or consecrated singlehood; at home, at work, wherever one happens to be. As such, a missionary disciple is one who faithfully, lovingly, and joyfully lives out their vocation.



ANDREW LEGREVE

SEMINARY

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Theology I

BIRTHDAY

June 22

PARISH

St. Agnes Parish, Green Bay

CONTACT

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INTERCESSOR

St. Francis de Sales, because lately, God has been speaking to me through his book, *"Introduction to the Devout Life."* It is a spiritually challenging read in which he counsels us how to live a life of love and true devotion to God. Very powerful stuff.

What is your baptismal day and in which church?

I was baptized on Aug. 9, 1992, at Holy Redeemer Church in Two Rivers, WI.

What is your favorite devotional and why?

While I am not too heavily invested in devotionals, it is hard to pass up on a daily rosary. There is just something to its simplicity and rhythm, not to mention that this particular devotional is backed by one of the most powerful intercessors that we have in the entire communion of saints: our Blessed Mother. Whenever I remain faithful to the rosary for a good streak of days, I feel confident that my mother in heaven is obtaining many sublime and unexpected graces for both myself and for all the church.

What was one misconception you had about seminary and how did that change?

Going into seminary, I did not have many stark preconceptions about what it would be like. I suppose I assumed that I would have to give up many of my hobbies, like computer programming and playing guitar, in order to make room for a simple, quiet, and contemplative life. My image of seminary seemed to be much more like a cloistered monastery. Of course, this is not the case. In many ways, seminarians live "normal lives." We all have hobbies outside of just praying or being pious. Although, since entering, my life has become simpler, quieter, and more contemplative.

What would your life be like without a cellphone?

Having completed a five-day silent retreat, I can answer this easily. Overall, I would say that my life was much simpler and more intentional. Without a cellphone, I found that I had much more time every day. No longer was I spending time aimlessly browsing the same social media sites. This gave me a greater sense of peace, because I was not eagerly anticipating the next Facebook notification. Instead, I was able to invest my time in more fruitful activities like prayer, reading, exercise, journaling and music composition. I imagine that without a cellphone, my life would be a lot like this, but all the time. I would totally recommend a cellphone fast to everyone. Life is just better. Give it a try sometime!

What is the funniest thing that happened to you in formation thus far?

One day, during this same retreat, I was jogging around Mundelein's beautiful lake, when I recognized a seminarian walking toward me. Since it was a silent retreat, I decided to greet him by striking my chest twice with my fist in a sort of salute. I did so and kept jogging. Not long after, I reached the turn around point for my jog. On the way back, I saw the same seminarian talking on his cellphone, on retreat no less! When I passed him, I realized that he was not a seminarian at all but Cardinal Cupich! I do not know what he thought of my salute, but I thought it was funny. It is always good to be humbled!

Who or what was the greatest influence in your discernment of the priesthood?

My mind immediately jumps to my years of altar serving in grade school. I always felt that I was in the right place, being so close to the altar at Mass. What happened on that very altar was important, and I wanted to remain there.

What does it mean to be a missionary disciple?

A missionary disciple is a friend and follower of Jesus Christ, sent out on mission. They know more than just facts about Jesus; they know him personally, through a continually deepening life of prayer. Through baptism, they are sent on mission, offering their daily lives as spiritual sacrifices pleasing to God (priestly office), proclaiming Jesus to the world in word and deed (prophetic office), while leading a holy life free from sin (kingly office).



BEN PRIBBENOW

SEMINARY

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Theology I

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BIRTHDAY

October 8

PARISH

Holy Spirit Parish,
Kimberly/Darboy

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INTERCESSOR

St. John Vianney, because
he lived a humble priesthood.
I hope to imitate his spirit of
humility and service during my
time in the seminary and as
a priest.

What is your baptismal day and in which church?

My baptismal day is Jan. 14, 1995. I was baptized at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Kimberly.

What is your favorite devotional and why?

My favorite devotionals are Marian devotions and, in particular, praying the rosary. This is my favorite devotional because Mary has always been present in my life, even when I was not taking my faith seriously. For example, before every high school football game or track meet, I prayed ten Hail Marys. As I grew in my faith, I began to pray the Rosary. Through this devotional, Mary has helped me to meditate on the events of Christ's life. I have found great peace and strength in praying a daily rosary.

What was one misconception you had about seminary and how did that change?

One misconception that I had was that it would be boring. This view changed early on at Mundelein Seminary. Since day one, my time in seminary has been a great adventure. On a day-to-day basis I have the opportunity to learn the truths of the faith, play sports with other seminarians, pilgrimage to holy sites, sing in the choir, and do many other fun activities. I have plenty to do, and my experiences are enriched by the friends I share those experiences with.

What would your life be like without a cellphone?

If I did not have a cellphone my life would be better in some ways and more difficult in others. Without a cellphone, I would be able to live more in the present moment. I would not be distracted by text messages and other notifications which pull me away from the items in front of me. Not having a cellphone would mean not having some form of media to constantly "entertain" me. As a result, I could more easily connect with and love those around me. On the other hand, not having a cellphone would make it more difficult to keep in touch with my family and friends who live far from me. Similarly, organizing social events would be more difficult. All of that said, I like to think that I am not too attached to my cellphone so hopefully my life would not change too much.

What is the funniest thing that happened to you in formation thus far?

One experience in Italy stands out. While at the beach, I made a small "flub" with the Italian language. A few seminarians and I, roasting in the sun, decided to sit in some empty beach chairs and under a couple unused umbrellas. After sitting in the chairs for an hour, I felt a tap on my shoulder and saw an Italian man motioning for me to get up. As an Italian language "newbie" I used an informal word for, "excuse me," instead of the formal word or simply apologizing. At this statement, the gentleman's wife made some exclamation in Italian, communicating her annoyance. My fellow seminarians and I were able to have a pretty good laugh about this as we walked away from the beach.

Who or what was the greatest influence in your discernment of the priesthood?

Fr. Eric Nielsen, the chaplain at St. Paul's University Catholic Center at UW-Madison was the greatest influence in my discernment of the priesthood. He both encouraged me to consider the priesthood and accompanied me as I discerned. Additionally, he was an excellent witness to the joy of the priesthood.

What does it mean to be a missionary disciple?

To be a missionary disciple means having a friendship with Christ characterized by daily prayer and frequent reception of the sacraments. Out of this relationship, a missionary disciple is able to proclaim the Gospel through words and loving actions. In doing so, a missionary disciple responds to Christ's call to, "Make disciples of all nations" (Mt. 28:19).



BRANDON LEWANDOWSKI

SEMINARY

Holy Spirit Parish,
Kimberly/Darboy
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Kimberly, WI 54136-1513

Pastoral Year

BIRTHDAY

April 22

PARISH

Sacred Heart Parish, Shawano

CONTACT

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INTERCESSOR

St. John Vianney, because he is especially relevant as the patron saint of parish priests. I would be blessed to learn a thousandth of his pastoral wisdom this year.

What is your baptismal day and in which church?

I was baptized on Sept. 17, 1995, at Sacred Heart Church in Shawano.

What is your favorite devotional and why?

The Sacred Heart is my favorite devotion. The heart is symbolically the core of a person, his or her deepest center. The heart is also a symbol of love, which is very much a part of this devotion. Christ's side was pierced out of love for us and he washes and nourishes us through the blood and water. I keep first Fridays and often add "Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us" to the end of prayers or pray this on its own. Additionally, Sacred Heart is my home parish, my academic seminary and more.

What was one misconception you had about seminary and how did that change?

I expected seminary to be more straightforward. Let me explain: Since I had been in school all my life up to seminary, I thought that seminary would mostly teach me things, just more information about God, the church and what priests do. There is plenty of that, but most of what I learn is much deeper. I learn relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; I learn my strengths and weaknesses and how God must be invited into everything; and I learn virtue and service by practicing them. It is far more than facts.

What would your life be like without a cellphone?

It would be possible for me to do most of the things I do with a cellphone with a computer and a landline. Nevertheless, I would certainly feel the absence. It is convenient to text someone for a quick comment or question, and a cellphone can also be useful for navigation. I would need to be much more intentional about face-to-face time with others, and I would need to be more attentive and more concerned with remembering things. It would probably also help me find more room for God. Cellphones often help us depersonalize our interactions, which is rarely a good thing. Though it would not be easy, I would survive fine, and I would grow in ways that are often downplayed in our modern age. The saints flourished without phones, so I suppose I could as well.

What is the funniest thing that happened to you in formation thus far?

Things that have happened to me are not necessarily funny. God does a lot of knocking me down (letting me mess up on my own) and picking me up, which I often find humorous, but it probably does not seem funny to anyone else. But now I can hear a hunger for comedy, so let me humor you. There was one time that a few other seminarians and I performed the very modern-styled hymn "Gather Us In" — in Latin (*Congrega Nos*), complete with suits, hats and tambourines! These words will not do the memory justice, but at the time, the clashing moods gave everyone present a good laugh.

Who or what was the greatest influence in your discernment of the priesthood?

I must offer thanks to St. Paul's University Catholic Center at UW-Madison. Through immersion in a Christ-centered community, including students, missionaries, and the priests, I was able to grow in knowledge and love of our faith. You can only hear God calling when you are ready to listen.

What does it mean to be a missionary disciple?

A missionary disciple always remains a disciple. We must always be rooted in Christ, spending time in prayer and remaining receivers of the faith. At the same time, a missionary disciple is a missionary. Through everyday witness (not necessarily by going to far-off lands and preaching), we spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, his life, death, resurrection, and ascension.



JACE SCHEFFLER

SEMINARY

St. John Vianney Theological Seminary
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Denver, CO 80210-2526

Spirituality Year

BIRTHDAY

December 19

PARISH

St. John the Baptist Parish,
Menasha

CONTACT

jjscheffler@outlook.com

INTERCESSOR

St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, because she was the first saint I formed a personal relationship with, and she continues to enflame my heart and protect my vocation.

What is your baptismal day and in which church?

I was baptized on March 17, 1996, at St. John the Baptist in Menasha when St. Patrick's feast day fell on Laetare Sunday.

What is your favorite devotional and why?

The rosary is my favorite devotional because I get to encounter and meditate on our Lord's mysteries with and through the Blessed Mother. I imagine the scene of each mystery in my mind and focus on some aspect of Christ's life, such as how much he suffered for me as he carried his cross or how he sounded as he proclaimed the Kingdom of God. I often do not experience much consolation when I pray the rosary, but I am confident that this is an efficacious prayer that never goes unheard by our Lord, which emboldens me to pray it often.

What was one misconception you had about seminary and how did that change?

I thought that the minimum age for seminary was 50 years old because I did not know any priests below that age until I entered high school and met a recently ordained priest. He made the priesthood a possibility for me because I could see myself in his shoes. This was further emphasized in college when I met some seminarians my age. These men played a substantial role in my saying "yes" to seminary. A wise priest once told me that one of the greatest gifts we can make to God is our youth, something we can never get back.

What would your life be like without a cellphone?

I am in fact spending this year at seminary without a cellphone for my Spirituality Year. It is so easy to pull out my cellphone for every text and email notification. Sometimes I instinctively take out my cellphone in awkward situations or while I am waiting in line in order to distract myself from the silence or avoid encountering other people. That tendency is obviously not a good quality for a missionary disciple of Jesus Christ, and so I welcome the opportunity to have this year away from my cellphone. The virtue lies in not needing to have a neat and tidy network of relationships, but having real, human encounters with the people I care about. There is also something wonderful about anticipating a meeting with a friend when I cannot simply text them.

What is the funniest thing that happened to you in formation thus far?

Two other seminarians and I were in Nettuno, Italy, visiting the Basilica of St. Maria Goretti. The basilica was closed shortly after we arrived and we were sitting outside on a bench waiting for it to reopen. All of sudden Joe and I noticed John, who is notorious for moseying around places, was missing. Naturally, we began to worry and looked around the perimeter of the basilica for him. In the end, we knocked on the back door of the basilica, where the Passionist Brothers lived, and asked one of them in broken Italian if he saw our friend John. The brother proceeded to bring us down into the crypt where we found John praying in the "closed basilica."

Who or what was the greatest influence in your discernment of the priesthood?

Fr. Daniel Schuster was the greatest influence in my discernment of the priesthood because he had the heart of a father and a missionary. I could tell that the way he spoke to me and preached was because he had been transformed by the love of Jesus. I wanted that.

What does it mean to be a missionary disciple?

To be a missionary disciple means to first be transformed by the love of Jesus and then to make a gift of yourself to others such that they also fall deeply in love with God.



JUAN ALTAMIRANO

SEMINARY

Immaculate Heart of Mary
Seminary
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Winona, MN 55987-1399

College IV

BIRTHDAY

June 24

PARISH

St. Therese Parish, Appleton

CONTACT

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INTERCESSOR

St. Thérèse of Lisieux,
because it is my home parish
and because I wish to imitate
her "Little Way."

What is your baptismal day and in which church?

I was baptized on the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord (Jan. 6) in 1995 at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Llano Largo, La Trinidad, Nicaragua.

What is your favorite devotional and why?

Praying the rosary daily is my favorite devotional for three reasons. First, the rosary is a prayer that helps me to be mindful of the powerful intercession of Mary and her role in the salvation of souls. Second, through the prayer of the rosary, I offer intercessory prayers for those who ask me to pray for them. Most of the time, I offer each decade of the rosary for a special intention. Finally, the rosary is a constant reminder of Jesus' love for me through the loving care of his Most Blessed Mother.

What was one misconception you had about seminary and how did that change?

Thinking that the seminary was boring was a misconception that I had before entering the seminary. Within my first two weeks of seminary, I quickly realized that seminarians love playing all kinds of sports, for example, ultimate frisbee, basketball, soccer, tennis, as well as board games. Moreover, the great sense of humor that most seminarians possess has changed my misconception of seminary even faster. Our conversations during meals, free times, and breaks between classes were always filled with great laughter and joy.

What would your life be like without a cellphone?

My life without a cellphone would be less occupied and informed, more quiet and prayerful. I remember going on my first six-day silent retreat and pondering what I was going to do without being in touch with the cybernetic world. During those six days, I had fewer things to do and worry about. For example, I did not have to check or send emails and respond to messages on any of my social media. As the days went by, things around me started to be quieter and quieter; I had no clue what was going on with the external world. As a result, I found myself in a place of contemplation and peace. By having put away my cellphone for six days and having entered into a spirit of silence, I was granted the blessing to be alone with God. In short, my life without a cellphone would be like a silent retreat.

What is the funniest thing that happened to you in formation thus far?

I would never forget my first day at the seminary. I arrived two days earlier than the rest of the freshmen, so the seminary formators were not expecting seminarians that day. I remember wearing black dress pants and a polo shirt and having a portfolio with me. As soon as I got into the building, I met the dean of formation who thought that I was a salesperson, not a seminarian. Later that day, I saw a few seminarians walking by and I wanted to talk to them, but they would not interact with me. They were on a silent retreat, they were not supposed to talk. I, then, went to eat dinner, and there was a song being played: "An Orphan Child."

Who or what was the greatest influence in your discernment of the priesthood?

The greatest influence in my discernment of the priesthood was spending time in adoration at the perpetual adoration chapel at St. Pius X Church in Appleton. I brought my desires, worries, joys and difficulties to Jesus who in response filled me with his graces to say "yes."

What does it mean to be a missionary disciple?

For me, to be a missionary disciple means to sit at the Lord's feet and listen to him and to live out the Gospel with joy, peace and love wherever I might be. In other words, it is essential to learn from the Master and make my actions a reflection of my love for him.



NICHOLAS STELLPFLUG

SEMINARY

St. Francis de Sales Seminary
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Pre-Theology I

BIRTHDAY

June 6

PARISH

St. Paul Parish,
Combined Locks

CONTACT

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INTERCESSOR

St. Teresa of Calcutta,
because her spiritual friendship
was very important at the
beginning of my discernment,
and she continues to help
me grow in my love for the
Eucharist and my desire to
serve others.

What is your baptismal day and in which church?

I was baptized on August 25, 1996, at Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish in Sun Prairie, WI.

What is your favorite devotional and why?

My favorite devotional is the rosary because it helps me reflect on the mysteries of the life of Jesus from the Gospels through the eyes of Mary. Our Blessed Mother is a great witness to what it means to completely trust the will of God, and her statement at the wedding of Cana, "Do whatever he tells you," shows her desire to bring us to the love of Jesus and to help us follow him. I ask for her intercession every day to bring me closer to her son, Jesus.

What was one misconception you had about seminary and how did that change?

One misconception I had was that seminary formation would not be "fun." I used to think that it would be kind of like going to boot camp. This is my first year of formation, but already I can see that the seminary is a place to work hard, pray hard and play hard. We wake up early in the morning to pray together in front of Jesus in adoration and at Mass, then we engage in learning throughout the day in our classes and formation sessions, and build comradery in the evenings by playing sports together.

What would your life be like without a cellphone?

The only reason I would miss having a cellphone would be to call or text someone. This past spring, I did Exodus 90, which is 90-day set of spiritual exercises that focuses on spending more time in prayer and fasting from using technology for anything other than work or essential communication, among other things. I discovered that I was more attached to technology than I thought. Through the 90 days, I realized that my phone was a big distraction to my prayer life, but more importantly, it was a distraction to my relationships with my friends and family.

What is the funniest thing that happened to you in formation thus far?

Many people wander onto the grounds of the seminary to walk their dogs, go for a run, or to take pictures. One night after finishing cleaning the kitchen after dinner, I was sitting on the third floor balcony in the front of the seminary and we saw a group of guys taking pictures of their classic car on the driveway. There was a second car driving in front of the classic car which had a guy wearing a bike helmet sitting in the open trunk filming action shots of the classic car.

Who or what was the greatest influence in your discernment of the priesthood?

The greatest influence in my discernment was going to daily Mass during the week. I began to fall in love with the beauty of the Mass, which drew me into a deeper relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist, giving me a solid foundation for my discernment.

What does it mean to be a missionary disciple?

When I think of a missionary disciple, I think of the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus in the Gospel of Luke. A missionary disciple, as shown in that story, is someone who meets people where they are at, patiently walks with them, teaches them respectfully, and ultimately brings them to Jesus in the Eucharist.



NATHAN BUDDE

SEMINARY

Immaculate Heart of Mary
Seminary
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College II

BIRTHDAY

March 6

PARISH

St. Mary Parish, Ledgeview

CONTACT

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INTERCESSOR

St. Padre Pio, because he has been a priestly influence on my life since I read a biography of his life in middle school. He is the inspiration for my confirmation name, Pius.

What is your baptismal day and in which church?

I was baptized at St. Mary Catholic Church in Ledgeview on April 30, 2000.

What is your favorite devotional and why?

Adoration is one of my favorite devotionals. Throughout my discernment, it has been a powerful avenue for me to experience the peace of Christ. I like how adoration is so dynamic. It can encompass a wide variety of prayers and other devotions including silent personal prayer, the reading of Scripture, praise and worship music, and communal prayer. In Mark 3:14, Jesus calls his apostles to first be with him, and it is through adoration that I can gaze upon our Lord and simply be with him.

What was one misconception you had about seminary and how did that change?

Coming into seminary, I expected that a majority of my daily schedule would be set by the seminary. I have found that there are a lot of rules and responsibilities for seminarians and there are some mandatory communal activities each day. However, I was surprised to find that the majority of each day is open time that I can schedule as I choose. While I will be using most of this time for studying and prayer, I am pleased to find that every hour of my day is not planned out for me.

What would your life be like without a cellphone?

I think my life without a cellphone would be quieter and simpler. My formators often talk about identifying "time suckers" that can prevent us from managing our time well, and my cellphone can definitely be one for me. Just in my first few weeks, I have noticed that by using my cellphone as a "landline" (leaving it in my dorm room during the day), it has been much easier for me to focus on my studies, prayer, and on building relationships with those around me. The biggest downside I can see to not having a cellphone at all is that it would be more difficult for me to stay in touch with friends and family, though certainly not impossible.

What is the funniest thing that happened to you in formation thus far?

On one of my first days here at IHM, I was on my way to my room from the chapel after morning prayer and Mass to put away my breviary. I live on the fourth floor across from the far set of bathrooms. So, I walked up the staircase, turned left and walked down the hall of identical-looking dorm rooms until I reached the one across from the bathroom and, without looking at the name tag, opened the door. It did not look like my room at all! I realized immediately that I had accidentally gotten off the stairs on the third floor which looks identical to the fourth. Luckily, no one was in the room, and I was saved from total embarrassment!

Who or what was the greatest influence in your discernment of the priesthood?

Fr. Daniel Schuster was one of the people who influenced my discernment the greatest. Since middle school, he played an important part in keeping me open to the priesthood by inviting me to events, encouraging me to altar serve, and giving spiritual counsel.

What does it mean to be a missionary disciple?

Missionary discipleship is the universal call for everyone in the church to follow Jesus and share the Gospel with those around them. As disciples, they are to study and follow the teachings of Jesus and develop a personal relationship with him through prayer, worship, and service. As missionaries, they are to strive to bring others into discipleship with Jesus, whether it be those in their own families and parishes or people in the broader community.



JAMES KANNING

SEMINARY

St. John Vianney College
Seminary
2110 Selby Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55104

College I

BIRTHDAY

November 5

PARISH

St. Bernard Parish, Green Bay

CONTACT

kann7901@stthomas.edu

INTERCESSOR

St. Thomas Aquinas, because he is my patron in confirmation, my patron as a student, and the patron of the university where I study. He and his work have played an integral role in forming my intellectual convictions about the faith and about life.

What is your baptismal day and in which church?

I was baptized on Dec. 24, 2000, at St. Michael Church in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

What is your favorite devotional and why?

On Aug. 22, 2016, I completed the "33 Days to Morning Glory" Total Marian Consecration on the memorial of the Queenship of Our Lady. My consecration therefore is made to her in the context of her queenship, whereby I pledge my love and obedience to Christ the King through Mary the Queen. One of my favorite prayers is now the Salve Regina. Our Lady of Good Help even called herself the Queen of Heaven in appearing to Sr. Adele. I love the Blessed Mother, and it just happens that she has met me in my life likewise as my Queen.

What was one misconception you had about seminary and how did that change?

I was under the impression it would be difficult or take some time to make friends and to get to know my brother seminarians, but that could not be further from the truth. The older men here at SJV are incredibly welcoming and outgoing, and all my fellow new men are open and friendly as well. I believe we have already become very close. The formators and elder seminarians have been intentional about us quickly building fraternity throughout the dioceses and grade levels, and I have yet to have a bad encounter with anyone.

What would your life be like without a cellphone?

My communicating with friends and family and my accessing general information would certainly become much more limited and less convenient. I would have to write more emails and letters to correspond with people, rather than texting and calling. Navigating cars would be more difficult. Everything else I use my cellphone for on a semi-daily basis, such as checking emails or baseball scores or playing music, I could simply do on my laptop. At this point, I have no gaming apps left on my phone, and my social media use beyond communication purposes is non-existent, all in accordance with the suggestions of my seminary rector and formators. Completely eliminating a phone would eliminate the temptation against being present, especially in those little moments during the day when, for example, I am in my room and I could either check on baseball news or check in on my brother seminarian.

What is the funniest thing that happened to you in formation thus far?

The state's seminarians were staying in a La Crosse hotel for the 2019 Wisconsin Seminarian Gathering this past August, and my roommate and I went to bed with a shuttle scheduled to leave the hotel at 7:30 a.m. the following morning. I set the alarm and went to sleep. Sometime during that night, I dreamt I woke up, and that my roommate told me he wanted to remain in bed. And so, under that impression when I awoke with the alarm and my roommate did not, I simply went back to sleep. About 10-15 minutes later we were awakened just in time by frantic knocks on our door. Needless to say, Fr. Mark was very intentional thereafter to make sure we each awoke on time.

Who or what was the greatest influence in your discernment of the priesthood?

Praying with the Blessed Sacrament was the principle means of both my conversion to following Christ and my discerning the call to seminary, in Eucharistic adoration and in simply being with him as he is reposed in the tabernacle.

What does it mean to be a missionary disciple?

Such is a disciple of Christ who is intentional about bringing him to those he knows and interacts with. The two necessarily go hand-in-hand. One must know the person of Jesus, his teachings and church, and must desire to conform one's life and heart with his. Then is needed the mentality to share that life and relationship with those yet of the world: the living of the Gospel commission as a missionary disciple.



MICHAEL VANCE

SEMINARY

St. John Vianney College
Seminary
2110 Selby Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55104

College I

BIRTHDAY

May 17

PARISH

St. Bernard Parish, Green Bay

CONTACT

samsonv12@icloud.com

INTERCESSOR

Our Lady of Lourdes. Mary's intercession is always awesome, and I like this particular apparition because of the mystery of the Immaculate Conception revealed by her words. I keep a statue of her in my dorm room.

What is your baptismal day and in which church?

I was baptized at St. Bernard Church in Green Bay on July 7, 2001.

What is your favorite devotional and why?

Liturgy of the Hours is absolutely awesome! If prayer is intended to be conversation with God (which it is), Liturgy of the Hours is like when your mother told you to call her every couple hours to check in while you are away from home for the first time. Morning prayer opens the day by offering it to God and night prayer ends it in thanksgiving. Throughout the day, office of readings, daytime prayer, and evening prayer continue these "check-ins." It is my favorite devotion to keep my prayer life on track throughout the day.

What was one misconception you had about seminary and how did that change?

Seminary has an ominous connotation akin to that of the cinematic representation of monastic life: constant Gregorian chant, friar haircuts, and perpetual seriousness and silence. I did not quite cultivate this belief myself, but I have definitely witnessed that it surely is not the case. Seminary is just a bunch of dudes together having a good time enjoying life and God's creation and working to grow closer to him in all aspects of life. We also can have hair so that is a plus, too.

What would your life be like without a cellphone?

Without a cellphone, life would be just fine, if not better. Most of the features on modern smartphones are luxuries to have scaled into our pockets: Google, email, games, and plenty more. Not having access to these things 24/7 in the palm of our hands allows us to occasionally step away from technology, which, like all things, is great in moderation. Of course, the instantaneous and universal access of text messaging would be missed in communication with long distance friends but that would also cultivate social presence in the real world rather than burying our heads in screens. I appreciate my cellphone and the benefits thereof, but also know that I would be alright without it.

What is the funniest thing that happened to you in formation thus far?

We were staying at a hotel in La Crosse for a statewide seminarian event, and the shuttle bus was scheduled to depart at 7:30 a.m. the next morning. My roommate (politely unnamed) set the alarm clock respectively and went to sleep. Apparently, in his dream I had told him not to wake me so when I did not hear the alarm he turned it off and fell back to sleep. What did wake me, however, was the knocking at our door at 7:10. We quickly got up and made it to the bus on time, but needless to say, Fr. Mark kept a closer eye on us for the rest of the retreat. I told my roommate to stop listening to dreams.

Who or what was the greatest influence in your discernment of the priesthood?

My senior year of high school granted me a strange schedule in which my Thursday afternoons were totally free. I spent this time at the nearby perpetual adoration chapel where I could just pray in silence. This definitely was a huge influence because discernment happens not without prayer.

What does it mean to be a missionary disciple?

A missionary disciple is living out the call to share the Gospel with others in our day-to-day lives. It never needs to be something extraordinary like evangelizing thousands of people in one day just by saying a few things as the Apostles did (though that would be pretty cool), just living the faith is enough. St. Francis of Assisi is quoted to say "Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words."

Office of **Vocations**



REV. MARK MLEZIVA
Vocation Director
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*"Be sure that you first preach
by the way you live."*

– ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO



REV. ADAM BRADLEY
Asst. Vocation Director
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*"We must keep ourselves in the
presence of God as much as
possible and have no other view
or end in all our actions but the
divine honor."*

– ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO

HOLY NAME OF JESUS HOUSE OF FORMATION

Due to the construction of a new Catholic school in De Pere, the Vocations House, formerly known as the Xavier House, had to be moved. With the new location in Allouez, came a new name.

Through prayer and consultation, Bishop Ricken elected to name the new house the Holy Name of Jesus House of Formation, or the Holy Name House for short. It is larger than the Xavier House and will provide us with the opportunity to run retreats, discernment groups, and other programs in-house in order to assist those discerning a call to the priesthood.

We are blessed to have a chapel within the house, which is named Sacred Heart Chapel. Just as the Sacred Heart is the center of Our Lord and His love for us, so it is also the center of everything that we do at the house as well. We are grateful to have this space in order to help those answer the call to serve the Church as priests.



Contact Fr. Mark Mleziva at (920) 272-8293 or mmleziva@gbdioc.org to learn more!

What is God calling **YOU** to do?



DiocesanPriest.com

DiocesanPriest.com serves ordinary men who are responding to their call to holiness and offers guidance for the question: "Is Jesus Christ calling me to be a Catholic priest?" Read the blog, use the interactive Vocation Director Finder, and discover what it means to be a Diocesan Priest!

Find the answers to your questions:

- Am I being called?
- What does it look like?
- Who do I talk to?
- What can I read?
- What do the saints say?
- What do the popes say?



Catholic Youth Expeditions

It's pretty simple. Catholic Youth Expeditions is an ecclesial community of the New Evangelization. JP II states in *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, "ecclesial communities are not antithetical to the Church. Rather they regenerate its historical and existential nature." In other words, "They're IMPORTANT!" Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche Communities states, "Our world has more and more need of 'intermediate'--places where people can find a certain interior freedom before they make their decision. A place where they can discover their deep selves."

That's what we are ... a place where interior freedom can be discovered through love, mercy, and forgiveness. We are a pre-formative intermediate community for young adults who want to follow Jesus Christ and His Church, plain and simple. We are all about formation, not training. About people and not numbers. Souls and not money. Grace over sin. Life over death. Fun and faith over rigidity and empty ritual. A place of mercy, a place of healing. So simple, we tend to forget about it, but the thing the Church needs most.

CYE Base Camp - All of our retreat expeditions leave from this coffee house. It is the place where we gather and gear up to make an expedition to Saint Joseph Formation Center! Base Camp offers a sustained place of community for people to meet and share faith, coffee, pizza, and Door County Cherry Smoothies!

St. Joseph the Worker Formation Center is home to Catholic Youth Expeditions and the newly founded religious community, the Missionaries of the Word. It is a 7.5 acre property on the beach of Kangaroo Lake. We have men's and women's dorms (during fall, winter, and spring), a pizza oven and back patio, Frasatti field for intense games of ultimate frisbee, and a super-simple chapel for the sacraments.

Learn More:

cyexpeditions.org

St. Joseph Formation Center:

3035 O'Brien Rd.
Baileys Harbor, WI 54202
(920) 573-0290

CYE Base Camp:

353 (Rear) Main Ave.
(Storefront Faces Reid St.)
De Pere, WI 54115
(920) 574-3621

Discipleship Formation for **Vocations**

Vianney Visit

November 14-16, 2019

www.stthomas.edu/vianney/eventsvisittheseminary

A road trip to the University of St. Thomas and St. John Vianney Seminary.

Duc in Altum – Young Adult Discernment Retreat

December 20-22, 2019

www.thinkpriest.org/duc-in-altum-retreat.htm

A silent Ignatian discernment retreat held at St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee for young adult men open to the priesthood.

St. Andrew Dinner

Monday, December 30, 2019, 5:30 PM

www.gbdioc.org/andrew

Mass and supper with Bishop Ricken in Green Bay, including formation on the priesthood.

March for Life – Washington, D.C.

January 21-26, 2020

www.gbresources.org/march-for-life.html

A pilgrimage with many young people witnessing to life.

Esto Vir Men's Conference

Saturday, March 7, 2020

estovir.com

Annual men's conference and a great event for fathers and sons to be together.

Duc in Altum – High School Discernment Retreat

April 3-5, 2020

www.thinkpriest.org/duc-in-altum-retreat.htm

A silent Ignatian discernment retreat held at the Mt. Tabor Center for high school men open to the priesthood.

Walk to Mary

Saturday, May 2, 2020

www.walktomary.com

A 23-mile walk from the St. Joseph Shrine to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. Walk with the Vocation Director!

Priesthood Ordination

Saturday, May 30, 2020, 10:00 AM

Be inspired as another group of seminarians lay down their lives (literally) at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral as they are ordained to the priesthood.

Catholic Youth Expeditions

All year round! - cyexpeditions.org

A smattering of offerings for youth and young adults. There are many adventures in prayer and life that await at Kangaroo Lake in Door County with Fr. Quinn and the Missionaries of the Word.

High School: Oct. 11-23, Nov. 15-17, Dec. 6-8, Jan. 24-26, Feb. 21-23, and Mar. 27-29

Young Adult: Oct. 18-20, Nov. 22-24, Jan. 3-5, Feb. 14-16, Mar. 13-15, and Apr. 9-11 (TRIDUUM)

Young Adult Silent: Sept. 27-29, Oct. 25-27, Nov. 29-Dec. 1, Jan. 31-Feb. 2, Mar. 6-8, and Apr. 17-19

For more information about any of these events, please contact a member of our Vocations team!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT DISCERNMENT, PLEASE CONTACT:

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mmleziva@gbdioc.org

Fr. Adam Bradley
920-272-8296
abradley@gbdioc.org



Diocese of
Green Bay