

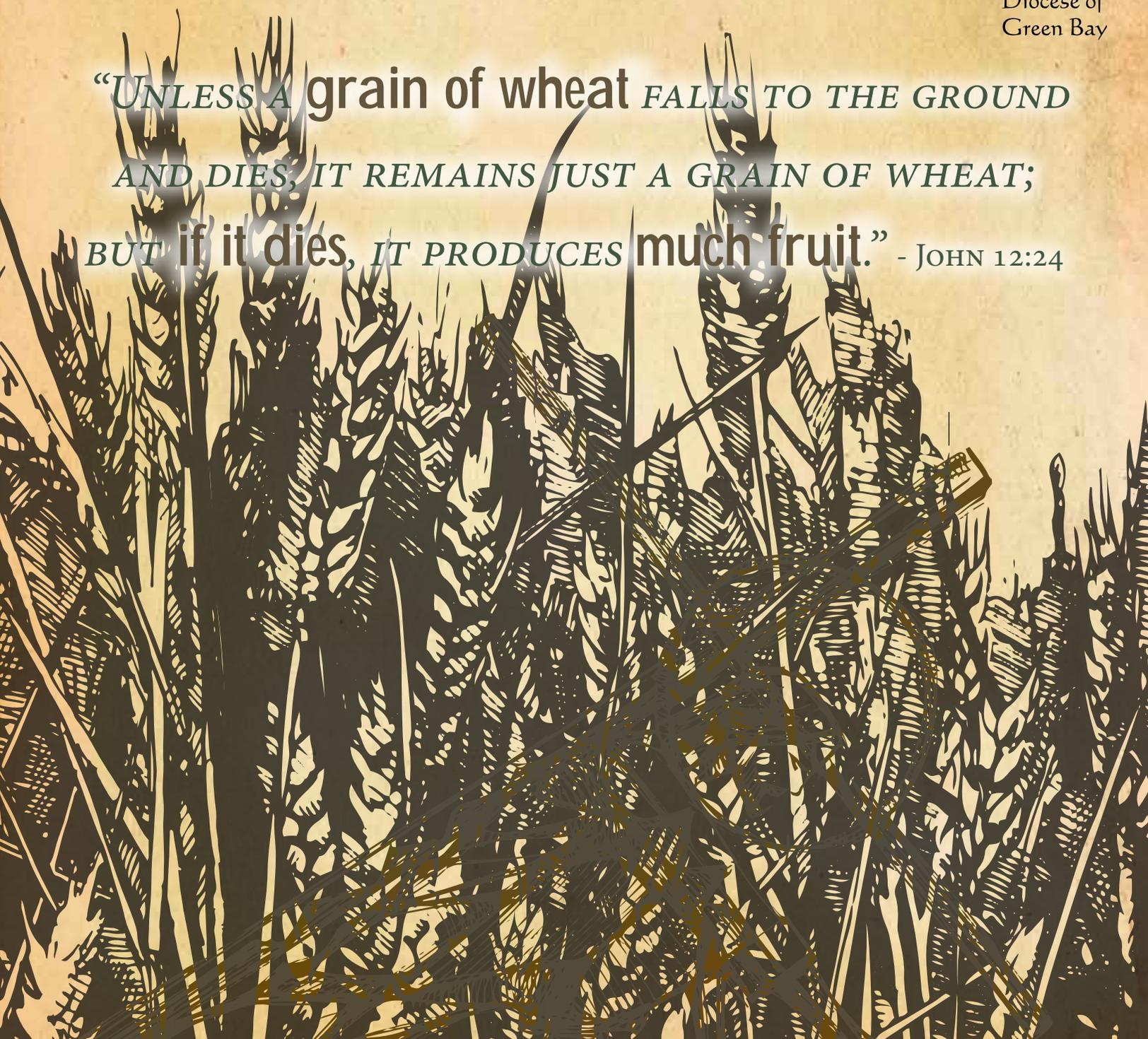
# SEMINARIAN DIRECTORY

Diocese of Green Bay | 2017-2018



Diocese of  
Green Bay

*“UNLESS A grain of wheat FALLS TO THE GROUND  
AND DIES, IT REMAINS JUST A GRAIN OF WHEAT;  
BUT if it dies, IT PRODUCES much fruit.” - JOHN 12:24*



# “I speak to you as fellow-disciples with me.”

- St. Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to the Ephesians, 3



Already by the time of St. Ignatius of Antioch (c. 35 – c. 107), the main elements of the Catholic faith were in place. Ignatius, a priest and bishop, wrote about these essential elements of Christianity in seven letters that still survive today. Ignatius loved the Trinity, he explained the identity of Jesus Christ as true God and true Man, he honored the motherhood of Mary, he knew the power of grace, he explained the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, and he gave us a look at the structure of the early Church and the spiritual authority of the bishop. He is the first writer known to use the term *Catholic Church*. The letters of Ignatius are one of the most important pieces of our Catholic history.

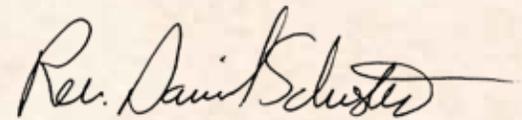
Why did St. Ignatius of Antioch write these letters? He wrote them because he was a prisoner who was on his way to die the death of a martyr. It makes all the difference to know that these are the words of a man who was condemned to death. He did not waste any time; he tells us simply what is important about being a Christian! Just imagine the situation: Ignatius offered his life as a bishop to serve his people; he is on his way to be eaten by lions; he is suffering much along the way in chains; and in the face of all this turmoil he writes, “Now I am beginning to be a disciple” (*Letter to the Romans*, 5).

**Imitation of the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is what makes a real disciple.** This was true for St. Ignatius of Antioch, and it remains true for us today.

St. Ignatius is an inspiration to our seminarians as they embark on their discipleship journey. Ignatius reminds them that the priesthood is not to be taken lightly. Pray for our seminarians that they can be transformed by grace and take on the identity of Jesus Christ to the extent of St. Ignatius of Antioch. They too want to be able to explain the Catholic faith, witness to it with their lives, lead souls to heaven, and make an offering of themselves at the Mass. Through the formation process, they are *beginning to be disciples* in an ever-deeper way.

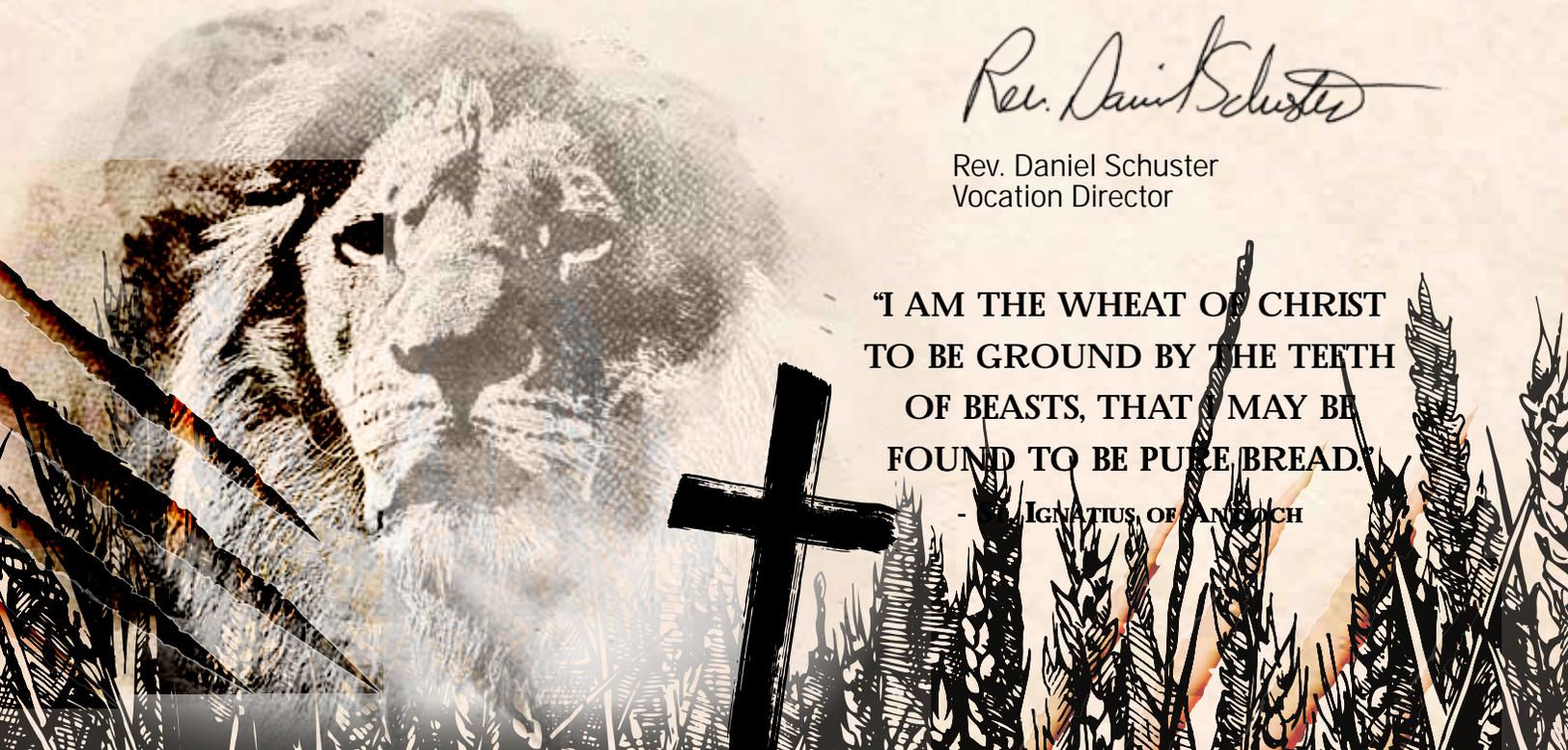
The spirituality of becoming an offering, evident in the life of St. Ignatius, is available to each of you. Begin your day with a **Morning Offering for Vocations** as a way of becoming real disciples. In this prayer, preferably said on one’s knees, we imitate the dying and rising of Jesus Christ. We offer ourselves like the saints: Mother Teresa, Louis Martin and Zélie Guerin (the parents of St. Thérèse of Lisieux), Josemaría Escrivá, and all those listed in our litany for seminarians in this booklet. The goal of each vocation, is to dwell in heaven like these saints.

Thank you for offering your lives, thank you for supporting priestly vocations, thank you for becoming real disciples.



Rev. Daniel Schuster

Rev. Daniel Schuster  
Vocation Director



“I AM THE WHEAT OF CHRIST  
TO BE GROUND BY THE TEETH  
OF BEASTS, THAT I MAY BE  
FOUND TO BE PURE BREAD.”

- IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

# Morning Offering for Vocations

## Daily Prayer Calendar

|  |   |  |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| <b>1st</b><br>Dcn. José López                      | <b>2nd</b><br>Dcn. Gregory Parent                                 | <b>3rd</b><br>Dcn. Kyle Sladek                         | <b>4th</b><br>Bill Evans                                 | <b>5th</b><br>Matthew Faucett                   | <b>6th</b><br>Connor Schlaack                    | <b>7th</b><br>Jon Hynek II                             |
| <b>8th</b><br>Benjamin Johnson                     | <b>9th</b><br>Kevin Ripley  | <b>10th</b><br>Samuel Schultz                          | <b>11th</b><br>Patrick Costello                          | <b>12th</b><br>Ziggy Gross                      | <b>13th</b><br>Matthew Colle                     | <b>14th</b><br>Michael Uchytel                         |
| <b>15th</b><br>Aaron Hietpas                       | <b>16th</b><br>Nathan Runde                                       | <b>17th</b><br>Andrew LeGreve                          | <b>18th</b><br>Brandon Lewandowski                       | <b>19th</b><br>Ben Pribbenow                    | <b>20th</b><br>Jace Scheffler                    | <b>21st</b><br>Juan Altamirano                         |
| <b>22nd</b><br>Peter Vande Hey                     | <b>23rd</b><br>The Most Rev. David L. Ricken, Bishop of Green Bay | <b>24th</b><br>Rev. Daniel Schuster, Vocation Director | <b>25th</b><br>Rev. Quinn Mann, Associate Director & CYE | <b>26th</b><br>For Parishes in Need of a Pastor | <b>27th</b><br>For Vocations to Religious Orders | <b>28th</b><br>For Vocations to the Contemplative Life |
| <b>29th</b><br>For All Discerning College Students | <b>30th</b><br>For All Discerning High School Students            | <b>31st</b><br>For Holy Marriages & Families           |  |   |  |  |

**O Jesus,**

in union with Your Most Precious Blood poured out on the cross and offered in every Mass, I offer You today my prayers, works, joys, sorrows and sufferings for the praise of Your Holy Name and all the desires of Your Sacred Heart; in reparation for sin, for the conversion of sinners, the union of all Christians and our final union with You in heaven.

Grant through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Help that the Diocese of Green Bay have more priests ordained each year; and so I lift up to You this special intention:  
(Mention the Intention of the Day)

"Dear lay faithful, be close to your priests with affection and with your prayers that they may be always be shepherds according to God's heart. And pray for those whom God is calling to be priests that they may respond to His call with humility and joy." POPE FRANCIS



# Rev. Mr. José López

## SEMINARY

St. Francis de Sales Seminary  
3257 South Lake Dr.  
St. Francis, WI 53235-3702  
Theology IV

## BIRTHDAY

June 29

## PARISH

St. Philip the Apostle Parish  
Green Bay

## CONTACT

jlopez@sfs.edu

## INTERCESSOR

St. Francis de Sales

### What do you want on your pizza?

Sausage and jalapeños.

### Tell us about a great experience that you had during the summer of 2017.

This past summer I was assigned as a deacon to St. Clare Parish in Greenleaf, Wrightstown and Askeaton. I had the wonderful opportunity to do various types of ministry, such as celebrating sacraments, youth trips, preaching, etc. One of the greatest experiences I had was visiting the homebound and the elderly in nursing homes. It was a blessing to listen to their stories, their challenges, their fears, but most importantly, how they have experienced the presence of God throughout their lives. These experiences moved my heart and confirmed my vocation to serve God in the priesthood.

### How would you describe the priesthood to a non-believer?

It is difficult to describe the priesthood if you do not believe in Jesus Christ and His redemptive mission on earth. The priesthood is an office instituted by Jesus Himself to act in His own person to further construct His kingdom on earth and to bring salvation to His people. Jesus continues to call men of different ages and backgrounds to serve Him and His mission. This call is placed in the heart of disciples who are called by God, feel moved, and are attracted to serve God through giving themselves in service to God and others. The priesthood is a vocation, or a calling to continually die to oneself so that God can fully live in us and through us. The purpose of this calling is to bring the good news of salvation, healing, liberation, peace, and the love of God to those who do not have the privilege to know Him personally. Through the priesthood the world receives the transformative presence of Jesus Christ in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist.

### Divine Providence is God's active protection and guidance in our lives.

#### How have you seen Providence in your life?

I have felt the protection and guidance of God in my life since I was a little boy. God has always been part of my life, whether I was aware of His presence in the moment or not. Growing up in Mexico, the Church was always part of our lives and I was involved in it one way or another. As a child, I like to think that I was in a close relationship with the Lord but it changed as I grew into adulthood. In retrospect, I realize that God was with me and my family when for some reason He moved us out of our country to come to live in the U.S. Growing up, I could not understand why God asked us to move, especially because it was difficult to leave friends behind and get used to a new culture. For a while in the new country, here in the U.S., I abandoned my relationship with God, but He never abandoned me. Throughout my years in high school and college, He was preparing me for something big. God was protecting and guiding me so I could serve Him and His people through the priesthood. Now I realize that this is the main reason why He asked us to move from our home country.

### Share an interesting fact about your middle school years:

I entered 6th grade not knowing a word of English, except "no."

### What parish and diocesan movements have inspired you as a disciple?

Through the Jornadas movement, the Lord called me to be a disciple. Once I was back in the practice of the faith, several movements and groups have inspired me to be a better disciple, such as Cursillo, Emmaus, Catholic Youth Expeditions, Stevensville conferences, silent retreats, the example of holy couples, seminarian brothers, and priests in love with Jesus Christ.

### Who are your teams?

Guadalupe (Chivas) and the Packers.

### What is your favorite day on the Liturgical Calendar?

Ascension Sunday



# Rev. Mr. Gregory Parent

## SEMINARY

Pontifical North American  
College  
00120 Vatican City, V  
Vatican City State, Europe  
Theology IV

## U.S. Mailing Address:

5024 Van Lanen Rd.  
New Franken, WI 54229-9796

## BIRTHDAY

August 9

## PARISH

SS. Peter & Paul Parish  
Green Bay

## CONTACT

gparent@pnac.org

## INTERCESSOR

St. Thérèse of Lisieux

### What do you want on your pizza?

I am a big fan of the supreme pizza. Preferably thin crust, but thick is okay too.

### Tell us about a great experience that you had during the summer of 2017.

I had the opportunity to play the most epic game of capture the flag I have ever been part of. There were five teams of four players, and each team had an item hidden at each of the other bases. We all had flags strapped to our hips as well. We had to collect all of our items from the other bases and get them back to our own base without getting our flags stolen. It started raining as the first game started, so a slippery field made it even more challenging.

### How would you describe the priesthood to a non-believer?

As the Church of Christ we are all journeying toward Heaven together. The priest is someone the Lord has chosen to serve the rest of the Christian community in order to help them along the way. Through ordination, the Lord gives the priest a part of Himself in order to make the priest an effective instrument of God's grace. It is the job of the priest to bring God to the Christian people. The primary way he does this is through celebrating the sacraments. He brings the indwelling of God in Baptism, the mercy of God in confession, the healing of God in Anointing of the Sick, and the body, blood, soul, and divinity of God in the Eucharist. When you encounter a priest, you encounter Christ Himself. This has nothing to do with the individual person—his gifts or merits—it is simply because God has chosen to give the priest as a gift to His people.

### Divine Providence is God's active protection and guidance in our lives. How have you seen Providence in your life?

Throughout my time in seminary God's Providence has been at work. He placed many people in my life who inspired me to initially start thinking about seminary, helped give me the courage to apply, and since entering countless people have helped me along the way. In a particular way, though, God has shown His Providence through the challenges I have encountered. The challenges I have come up against in seminary have highlighted wounds and weaknesses in me that the Lord desired to heal and strengthen. One example is when I got sent to Rome for major seminary. I was very excited, but I was also nervous about being so far from home. It has been an amazing opportunity, but there have been times when I have been homesick. God's Providence has shown through in these moments because He used them to teach me how to rely on Him, and how to make my relationship with Him the most important part of my life. I am really grateful for the way God took me somewhere that I never expected to go, and used the experience to teach me something I did not even know I had to learn.

### Share an interesting fact about your middle school years:

I played football for the St. Philip Falcons in Green Bay, and we were undefeated when I was in 8th grade.

### What parish and diocesan movements have inspired you as a disciple?

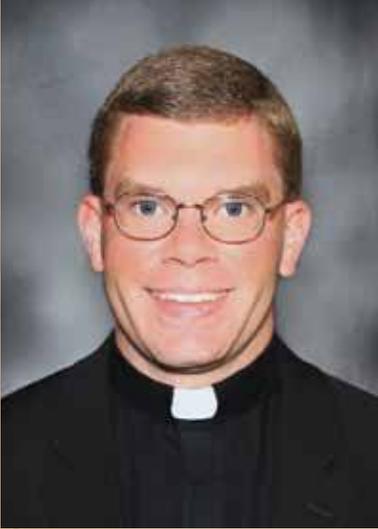
Before I entered seminary I participated in Catholic Youth Expeditions and was an altar server at my parish. I also went to St. John Bosco Youth Day at Holy Hill. Since entering seminary I have helped with Steubenville conferences and Catholic Heart Work Camps, both of which have been powerful. Throughout everything, the adoration chapel at my home parish of SS. Peter and Paul in Green Bay has been a great source of grace.

### Who are your teams?

Packers, Brewers, Bucks, Badgers, and Team USA.

### What is your favorite day on the Liturgical Calendar?

August 15th the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary.



# Rev. Mr. Kyle Sladek

## SEMINARY

Mundelein Seminary  
1000 E. Maple Ave.  
Mundelein, IL 60060-1967  
Theology IV

## BIRTHDAY

December 2

## PARISH

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral  
Green Bay

## CONTACT

kylesladek@gmail.com

## INTERCESSOR

The Holy Family

### What do you want on your pizza?

Supreme. Since this is fantasy, I want Pizza Hut Stuffed Crust with Papa John's Garlic Sauce.

### Tell us about a great experience that you had during the summer of 2017.

At my summer parish in Lakewood, I was discipled by Fr. Leo Lessard. Fr. Leo turned 87 this summer and is slowing down. He still "concelebrates" (sort of) at the parish Masses, and he still provides a blessing upon request. Fr. Leo built his own coffin (regular readers of this Directory will recognize a kindred spirit) and carved his own headstone for the parish cemetery. He would greet me each day by looking me over, laughing, and shaking his head. This was, ironically, very affirming. He radiates joy, warmth, and a love of Christ and his priesthood.

### How would you describe the priesthood to a non-believer?

The priesthood is a gift Jesus gave to the Church. God promised to give His Church shepherds, and the New Covenant version of shepherds is priests. Priests offer sacrifice and pray for their people. The sacrifice they offer is a bloodless sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving called "the Mass." The Mass is the perfect prayer and the best way to encounter God. Priests also dispense other Sacraments, which we believe are moments of encountering God. Priests have the power to forgive sins and the authority to cast out demons. This is because of the priest's special configuration to Christ: He is considered an alter Christus—"another Christ." The Church is the Body of Christ and priests stand "in the person of Christ the Head." This does not mean that priests are "better" than others. It only means that through ordination they are given graces to teach, lead, and make holy the rest of the Church. Priests are called to be living icons of Christ.

### Divine Providence is God's active protection and guidance in our lives.

#### How have you seen Providence in your life?

As far as guidance, God has let me try things and find what will make me happy. It was a real blessing to realize early in my life that only He would make me happy, and I am grateful that He respected my freedom. I realized this for the first time in high school, where I "had it all," at least by high school standards—pleasure, wealth, power, and honor—but I still was not happy. God put a good friend and other good people and providential events in my life to lead me to Him. He continued to put people in my life to inspire me toward priesthood—priests, friends, relationships, families—but through it all He respected my freedom. In fact, as I got closer to ordination, it seemed like God really wanted to make sure I was freely choosing this vocation! (Stories for another Directory...) Sometimes God's Providence means we suffer. As far as protection, I believe God and His angels have been spiritually protecting me, though God has also allowed me to experience sin and evil. I believe God physically protects us, too. Case in point, I was in a car wreck on April Fools' Day 2013 in which my friend and I could easily have been run over by a semi and killed, but we walked away without severe injuries. This reinforced for me that guardian angels are real and that God—and especially Mary—watch over us.

### Share an interesting fact about your middle school years:

I beat my best friend in the school spelling bee by correctly spelling "dandruff." Then I lost at the district level by incorrectly spelling "ascension." I had to look up both words as I typed this.

### What parish and diocesan movements have inspired you as a disciple?

Notre Dame Academy Witness youth group. Steubenville retreats in high school and college. World Youth Day 2011 in Spain. Song of Songs Bible Study at the Cathedral. Cathedral Schola Cantorum. Viri Ecclesiae at Xavier House. Green Bay adoration chapel. The Shrine of the Champion. Teaching Totus Tuus. Lately, Communion and Liberation.

### Who are your teams?

Packers, Brewers, Bucks, Fighting Irish, Mundelein Lakers, Notre Dame Academy Tritons, Holy Family Comets.

### What is your favorite day on the liturgical calendar?

Good Friday. The Word of God.



# Bill Evans

## What do you want on your pizza?

Canadian bacon, pineapple, and extra cheese, please.

## Tell us about a great experience that you had during the summer of 2017.

The journey toward priesthood is never a totally smooth, always straight, or completely predictable path. God in His wisdom offers challenging terrain and multiple points of decision when the route diverges. In time, our own understanding proves to be insufficient, and we must abandon ourselves to the One who knows the way. My public declaration of candidacy for Holy Orders before Bishop Ricken this past May was a moment of abandonment into the sure hands of Christ Jesus and Holy Mother Church to guide me wholly in the Divine will.

## How would you describe the priesthood to a non-believer?

The Catholic priesthood is frequently an enigma, even to many who claim to believe. It is a state of being, not a job description. Mere words yield an incomplete definition. The witness of a man under the mantle of the priesthood speaks more precisely and truly about the lived reality of his call than even the most eloquent language. The non-believer will be unmoved by Godly prose, but he will translate what he sees into a personal idiom. One who does not know Christ cannot begin to understand his priesthood. Therefore we must demonstrate such concepts as servant leadership, living for the good of another, self-sacrifice and all else that “means” priesthood. The definition becomes enfleshed in a relationship. The priest himself is ideally transparent such that the non-believer meets Jesus and, by grace alone, senses his own identity as a child of the Father, no matter how dimly. The priest leads others to Jesus only through Jesus and not by personal power or influence, describing the priesthood in his docility and obedience.

## Divine Providence is God’s active protection and guidance in our lives. How have you seen Providence in your life?

Our good God is constantly offering to make Himself known in our lives. Many instances of Divine Providence may go unnoticed or attributed to coincidence. Children are often the most receptive to divine presence. My mother died when I was four. On the night she passed, my father sent me to the neighbor’s house to sleep. In the morning, a very lovely woman, not the mother of the house, woke me up and told me it was time to go home. I did not know her, but I was not afraid to go with her. The lady walked me down the long street to my home. As we walked, she very gently told me that my mother had died during the night. She assured me that my mother was happy and that she wanted me to know how much I was loved. She told me that I would be safe and that I would never be alone. We arrived at my house. I found my father in the living room. He asked me how I got home. All I could say was that “the lady brought me.” I turned to point out the lady, but she was gone. My father called the neighbors to ask about the lady. The neighbors knew nothing about her. To this day I do not know the identity of the lady. But I do know she brought great peace and comfort to a little boy who had just lost his mother.

## Share an interesting fact about your middle school years:

“Live outside your comfort zone!” Middle school years are often marked by a desire to be unnoticed in one’s adolescent awkwardness. In 8th grade, I just wanted to be in the chorus of Pirates of Penzance. I ended up being the Pirate King—the first of many moments outside my comfort zone!

## What parish and diocesan movements have inspired you as a disciple?

Our Lord changed my life forever on Chambers Island men’s retreats. He told me I would repay the Diocese of Green Bay. I gave money until I finally got a little gold plaque. Jesus still said I would repay the Diocese one day. He meant with my life.

Who are your team?  
Packers and Packers’ fans all over.

What is your favorite day on the Liturgical Calendar?  
Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Sunday of the Eucharist and the priesthood—my reasons for...

## SEMINARY

St. Francis de Sales Seminary  
3257 South Lake Dr  
St. Francis, WI 53235-3702  
Theology III

## BIRTHDAY

August 29

## PARISH

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral  
Green Bay

## CONTACT

wevans@sfs.edu

## INTERCESSOR

Bl. Solanus Casey



# Matthew Faucett

## SEMINARY

Pontifical North American  
College  
00120 Vatican City, V  
Vatican City State, Europe  
Theology III

## U.S. Mailing Address:

N181 West Dr.  
Menominee, MI 49858-9788

## BIRTHDAY

January 12

## PARISH

Archdiocese of the Military  
Co-Sponsorship  
Holy Family Parish, Marinette

## CONTACT

mfaucett@pnac.org

## INTERCESSOR

Bl. John Henry Newman

## What do you want on your pizza?

Sausage, onions, and black olives.

## Tell us about a great experience that you had during the summer of 2017.

This past summer I was assigned to the Quad Parishes on the west side of Green Bay. I loved Saturday nights because of the Young Adult Kickball at Annunciation Parish. It was great getting to know many of the young adults from the diocese and the neighborhood. Not having played kickball since middle school, it was great to work on my skills on the field and enjoy friendly competition with other young adults. The program began this year. I think it helped bring a wide variety of people to the parish.

## How would you describe the priesthood to a non-believer?

I would say that the priest is a man called to be a representative of God among people. Obviously, this answer would not necessarily help the non-believer immediately come to believe in God or the Church. One tradition known to many non-believers is priestly celibacy—priests in the Roman Catholic Church do not marry. In a play about Fr. Michael McGivney—the founder of the Knights of Columbus—the priest's celibacy and reason for existence is described beautifully: "If the priest is alone it is to remind others that they are not." Aside from other realities of the priesthood, this line gets straight to the point of priesthood: God is with His people and wants to be with them, and the priest aids that movement. The message of Christ's prophetic name, Emmanuel, was "God is with us," so the priest is both a reminder of God's presence and a place of contact with God for His people.

## Divine Providence is God's active protection and guidance in our lives. How have you seen Providence in your life?

So often we are confused by God's actions, or at least how they all fit together. I have often been confused about why certain people were close to me at particular times, until I realized in prayer or conversation how God's Providence allowed me to be strengthened and encouraged by friendships into the seminary. During my first year in college, about two weeks into the first semester, I had to change dorm halls because of an issue with the room. I was nervous about moving dorms since I had already made friends with people in my building. However, I became very close to some of the students living in the new dorm. We ended up going to Mass as a group, studied, and quizzed together, and supported each other during the year. At the time, I thought I was just doing what most college kids did, and I did not see any Divine intervention in our group's formation and friendship. When I entered seminary, these same friends gave me a lot of encouragement and support, even though none of them really knew what seminary was, or what a priest did. I did not appreciate how Providence worked in this situation until I went on my first silent retreat where the director encouraged me to pray with the relationships that led me to seminary. These friends, and our experiences together, came to mind. God worked through the difficult and awkward situations to help me do His will later in life.

## Share an interesting fact about your middle school years:

I went to my first Boy Scout camp in middle school, and I remember learning how to build, start, and (hopefully) put out campfires. I thought this was pretty cool at the time and I think I set a record for number of fires started.

## What parish and diocesan movements have inspired you as a disciple?

Alpha serving from a young age. Later on, I became a Boy Scout. Catholic Heart Work Camp, Stephenville North, Love Begins Here, and Chambers Island retreats. My dad encouraged my brother and me to join the Knights of Columbus.

## What are your teams?

Packers, Brewers, and Marquette basketball.

## What is your favorite day of the liturgical calendar?

June 29, Feast of Saints Peter and Paul



# Connor Schlaack

## What do you want on your pizza?

Mozzarella cheese, cheddar cheese, ground beef, sausage, bacon, and onions.

## Tell us about a great experience that you had during the summer of 2017.

I was a hospital chaplain this summer. One night, a couple arrived with their child, who had stopped breathing. At the couple's request, I baptized the child. Those words and the water were the most ordinary things in the world. After being with the family for a long time, I finished my other work in the hospital, returned to my room and prayed. Only in prayer did I see how God worked: A little girl got to go to heaven because of what Jesus told us to do in Baptism and my offer of that sacrament to this family.

## How would you describe the priesthood to a non-believer?

It might be better to first say what the priesthood is not: The priest is not a corporate manager, though he is called to lead. The priest is not a bachelor, though he will never marry. The priest is not a therapist, though he is called to heal. The priest is not a magician, though he imparts spiritual power. The priest is not perfect, but is an image of God. The priest is the man given the mission of bringing others to God by being a father to God's people. The priest is called to bring God to others in his person, message, actions, and leadership. The priest in the fullness of his person is the image of Jesus Christ, the image of the Father. His life points toward happiness in God. His life's purpose makes sense only if God really exists, comes to us, and desires our love.

## Divine Providence is God's active protection and guidance in our lives.

### How have you seen Providence in your life?

An important time I saw God's Providence was while visiting a community of religious sisters and brothers. During the visit we met some missionaries who had come from far away to share their own experience of the love of God and God's love for every person. Both these missionaries and the religious we were visiting were living by Providence: They only had what they could beg from others. We ate with them, and we all shared about God's work in our lives. We all had everything we needed for our physical and spiritual lives, and it was very good. God blessed us beyond what we had anticipated: We saw old friends and made new ones. Our love for the Lord, His Church, and her mission were increased, and we were able to give as well as receive. After this meal, we drove back to the city where we were staying, and a friend shared that he noticed in the course of the meal that we, the visitors, were the only ones with money in our pockets, yet we had all that we needed. The beauty of God's Providence in a simple, but profound afternoon struck me with his words. We simply went out of love, and God provided for all we needed, and most importantly showed his love to us.

## Share an interesting fact about your middle school years:

In middle school I was involved in Boy Scouts and developed a love for nature, knot-tying, fire-building, and hiking. I also learned the benefits of bug spray.

## What parish and diocesan movements have inspired you as a disciple?

Steubenville conferences, the March for Life, adoration, and altar serving have all inspired me to follow Jesus more closely and give my life to His love. Seeing the Christian life lived vibrantly has taught me how to follow Jesus as His disciple, and how His intense love for us leads to an intensity of mission in bringing Him to the world.

## Who are your teams?

Packers, Brewers, Celtics, and Bruins.

## What is your favorite day on the Liturgical Calendar?

Trinity Vigil

## SEMINARY

St. Francis de Sales Seminary  
3257 South Lake Dr.  
St. Francis, WI 53235-3702  
Theology III

## BIRTHDAY

February 27

## PARISH

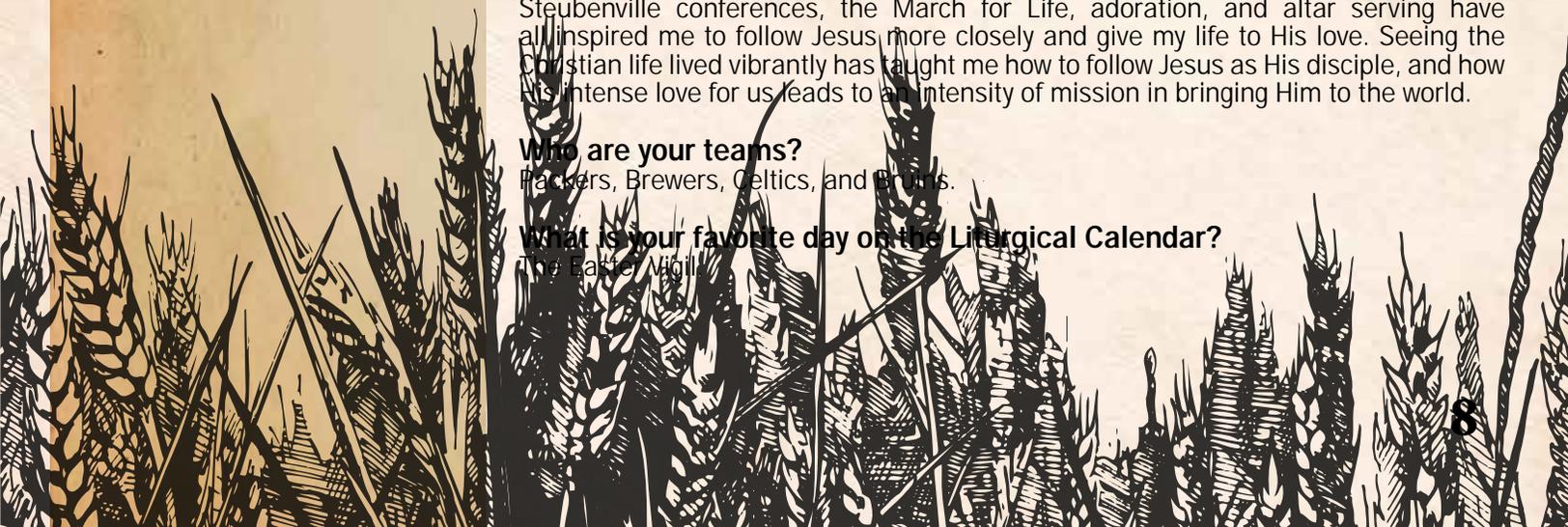
Most Blessed Sacrament  
Parish, Oshkosh

## CONTACT

cschlaack@sfs.edu

## INTERCESSOR

Saint John Paul II





# Jon Hynek II

## SEMINARY

St. Francis de Sales Seminary  
3257 South Lake Dr.  
St. Francis, WI 53235-3702  
Theology II

## BIRTHDAY

September 9

## PARISH

St. Francis of Assisi Parish  
Manitowoc

## CONTACT

jhynek@sfs.edu

## INTERCESSOR

St. Maximilian Kolbe

### What do you want on your pizza?

Cheese, any and all meats, and cheese...did I mention cheese?

### Tell us about a great experience that you had during the summer of 2017.

One of the many blessings from this past summer of learning Spanish in San Antonio, TX, was getting to know so many people who also wanted to learn Spanish so as to minister to Spanish-speaking people. I met people from all over the U.S., and we all had the same goal: to learn Spanish so as to better serve our respective dioceses.

### How would you describe the priesthood to a non-believer?

The priesthood is a giving of one's self completely for the people of God. A priest is a mediator between God and man, as Jesus Christ was. The priest speaks the word of God and speaks for the people to God. He is a witness of God's infinite love and mercy. A priest guides his community to a deeper and more loving relationship with God. He challenges not only the community, but also himself to better themselves, the community, nation, and world. A priest does not have an earthly family, but instead a spiritual family. This is why he is called "father": He is meant to better his family and to lead his family to God and eternal life. Overall a priest is a sign of an unfailing, undiminished love for all people.

### Divine Providence is God's active protection and guidance in our lives.

#### How have you seen Providence in your life?

As I thought about this question for a while, many little things came to mind. One of them was when I was in elementary school, and it was the first time I got to wait for the bus on my own. Needless to say, I missed the bus and started walking to school, which was about five miles away. It was raining. I probably made it halfway when someone pulled over and offered me a ride. Not knowing any better, by God's Providence, I made it safely to school with no harm done to me.

Another example that comes to mind is my call to seminary. In 2011 I went to World Youth Day in Madrid. I had just graduated high school, and I was not sure what I wanted to do with my life. At one of the Masses we went to, I was praying and asking the Lord what He wanted me to do. So I simply asked Him, "Jesus, I will do whatever you want me to, just tell me what it is and I'll do it." Directly after I asked Jesus, I heard from my heart "look up." When I looked up the Eucharist was being elevated. I responded with doubt. "Priesthood?" Then quietly in the depths of my heart, "Yes."

### Share an interesting fact about your middle school years:

Most of my extracurricular activities were scouting and sports. In middle school I was a three-sport athlete, and in high school I did not play any sports.

### What parish and diocesan movements have inspired you as a disciple?

I worked for Totus Tuus for two years. In those two years I had many experiences that I will cherish for the rest of my life. One of those experiences was a particularly difficult and draining week, and I felt that not much fruit was coming. But on the last day the priest asked all the students what they will cherish and remember the rest of the summer and one of the children said, "I will always remember that God loves me." It was an experience that reminded me that it's not my work but His work that works through me.

### Who are your teams?

Packers, Bulls, Blackhawks, Brewers, and Rickie Fowler (gol).

### What is your favorite day on the Liturgical Calendar?

The Fifth of July.



# Benjamin Johnson

## What do you want on your pizza?

Buffalo sauce, ranch, and chicken.

## Tell us about a great experience that you had during the summer of 2017.

While I was studying Spanish, I got to travel around and see a lot of San Antonio, TX, on the weekends and between studies. I walked along the Riverwalk, visited some churches and parks, and even visited the Alamo a few times.

## How would you describe the priesthood to a non-believer?

Simply stated, I believe a priest is someone who lives to serve, teach, guide, and love. But to give a more in-depth explanation to a non-believer, I would say that priesthood is... paradoxical. In the priesthood, one sacrifices his own life for others, yet he finds it returned to him greater and more magnanimous than before. He is celibate, yet by this celibacy he gives life to others. He is father to none, yet father to thousands. He is always on the clock, yet he finds complete rest in the briefest moments. He is an anchor for others, yet frequently on the move. He is an obedient servant, yet freer than most. Whether you are a believer or a non-believer, priesthood is paradoxical. Fortunately, everyone loves a good paradox.

## Divine Providence is God's active protection and guidance in our lives. How have you seen Providence in your life?

For most of my life, my faith was shaky at best. At worst, it was nonexistent. In high school I became the stereotypical know-it-all, cynical, skeptical teenager. It was only by God's Divine Providence, working through various people in my life, that I was able to return wholly to the faith. I began to ask Him, "What was I made for?" I went to the Milwaukee School of Engineering thinking my calling would be in what I am good at, which is math and science. Eventually I found myself drawn away from that life. Bit by bit, Providence opened my eyes to two things regarding my own vocation: I knew I wanted to be as close to God as I possibly could get in this life, and I knew I wanted to help others—heal them—if possible, whether in body, mind, or soul. Eventually, through the process we call discernment, I found myself open to the possibility of priesthood. I became a seminarian who went looking for closeness to God and clarity of vocation, and I stayed because I found the answers. Providence continued to guide me even when I wavered. Now, following His guidance, I can say that I believe I am called to serve, to teach, to guide, to love, and to give life as a priest.

## Share an interesting fact about your middle school years:

At some point in middle school I took archery classes. I thought it was the coolest thing. Unfortunately, there is no archery range at Mundelein Seminary.

## What parish and diocesan movements have inspired you as a disciple?

Two years ago, I had a great and inspirational time helping the Duc in Altum silent high school retreat in Menasha, and the TEC retreat in Green Bay.

## Who are your teams?

I do not follow sports so I am going to say Han Solo and Chewbacca. They make a pretty good team. The Fellowship of the Ring is another good team.

## What is your favorite day on the Liturgical Calendar?

Nothing can top the Paschal Triduum.

## SEMINARY

Mundelein Seminary  
1000 E. Maple Ave.  
Mundelein, IL 60060-1967  
Theology II

## BIRTHDAY

June 22

## PARISH

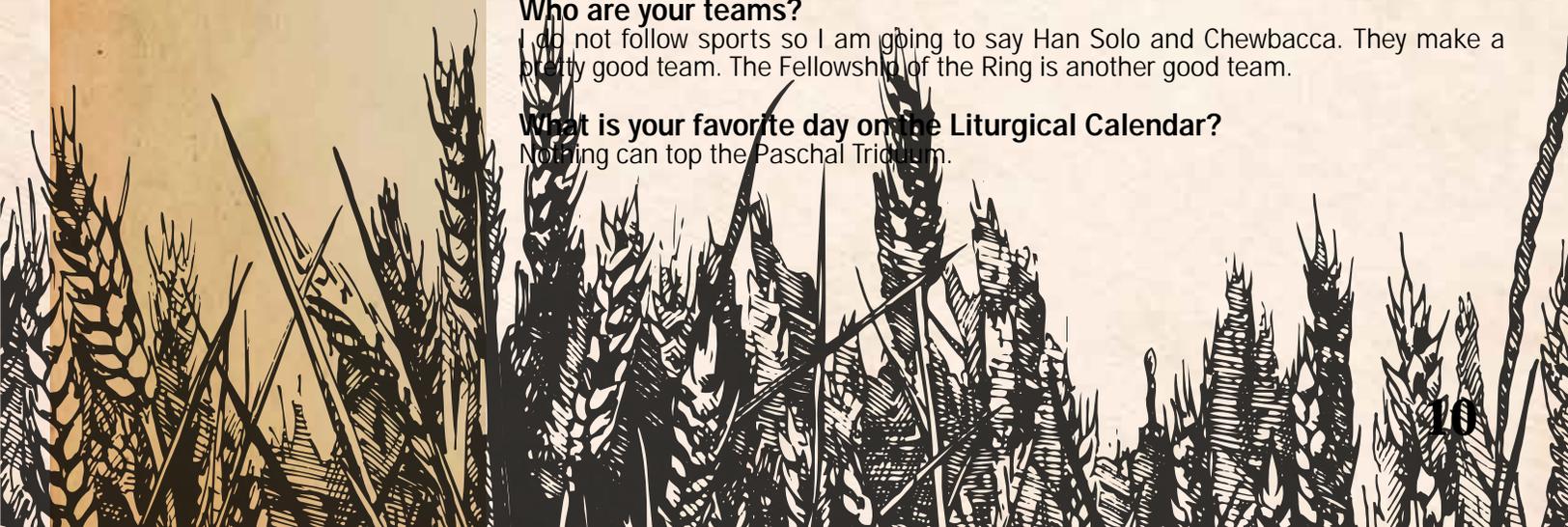
Most Blessed Sacrament  
Parish, Oshkosh

## CONTACT

[bjohnson@usml.edu](mailto:bjohnson@usml.edu)

## INTERCESSOR

St. Francis Xavier





# Kevin Ripley

## SEMINARY

Mundelein Seminary  
1000 E. Maple Ave.  
Mundelein, IL 60060-1967  
Theology II

## BIRTHDAY

October 10

## PARISH

Assumption BVM  
Pulaski

## CONTACT

kripley@usml.edu

## INTERCESSOR

St. Thérèse of Lisieux

### What do you want on your pizza?

I want tomato sauce, mozzarella cheese, sausage, onions, green peppers, and oregano, please.

### Tell us about a great experience that you had during the summer of 2017.

Working alongside around 200 young missionaries on our local Love Begins Here mission trips, I served others day after day with love in an authentically Christian experience. We lived in classrooms for three to five days, had daily Mass, and visited peoples' homes, both noticing Christ in our neighbors and bringing His presence to them. Following the ways and teachings of St. Teresa of Calcutta, the smallest of actions—when done with love—could be offered to satiate Jesus' thirst for love and for souls. In that way every detail became important, even a tiny weed or unseen cobweb.

### How would you describe the priesthood to a non-believer?

Imagine getting to the end of your life and wanting to ask the big questions once again: Who am I? What is the meaning of my life? What happens after death? You may consider discussing them with a close friend, but you also might think of engaging a priest. You probably have noticed priests silently going about their work, leading you to acknowledge the importance of such questions in the first place. If such a simple witness of a man fully giving his life to a way of living in accord with clear answers to those questions can lead you to ask them, then he might be able to help you with your own answers. The priesthood is basically that: a sacrificial giving of oneself as a living witness to eternity and as a spiritual leader. However, it is Jesus—God made man—in whom the priesthood exists and who offers Himself in a unique way through His priestly ministers for the good of all people and for the health and unity of all believers.

### Divine Providence is God's active protection and guidance in our lives. How have you seen Providence in your life?

There are many things that I narrowly avoided in my life that probably would have done some damage. Whether it was a close call on the road or a misplaced step near a cliff, it became clear in a couple moments of grace that God seems to be saving me for something. Once in a while throughout middle school and high school I would notice coincidences. Later in college I experienced quite a bit of stress trying to do things on my own. Eventually that sense of Providence came back as my faith grew in the form of trusting God with my time. I took advice from others that when we give God time in prayer He always takes care of us. My worries began to wash away as everything worked together for my good. Not that I saw that all the time, but it was more often my mindset. School-wise, I could trust that I was studying what I needed to study. Actually, there was one occasion when I missed an exam. I had a hunch it would turn out fine, which was confirmed when I received an unexpected call from Rome right before going to the professor's office. Then, on a mission trip to Haiti, I scheduled the wrong flight home but ended up being invited to one of Mother Teresa's orphanages for the extra day. Now in seminary, I am beginning to see that Providence is not just the small or big coincidences but is every moment.

### Share an interesting fact about your middle school years:

I got to play a newsboy in the musical Working, which meant I could sing while rollerblading around the stage and the aisles.

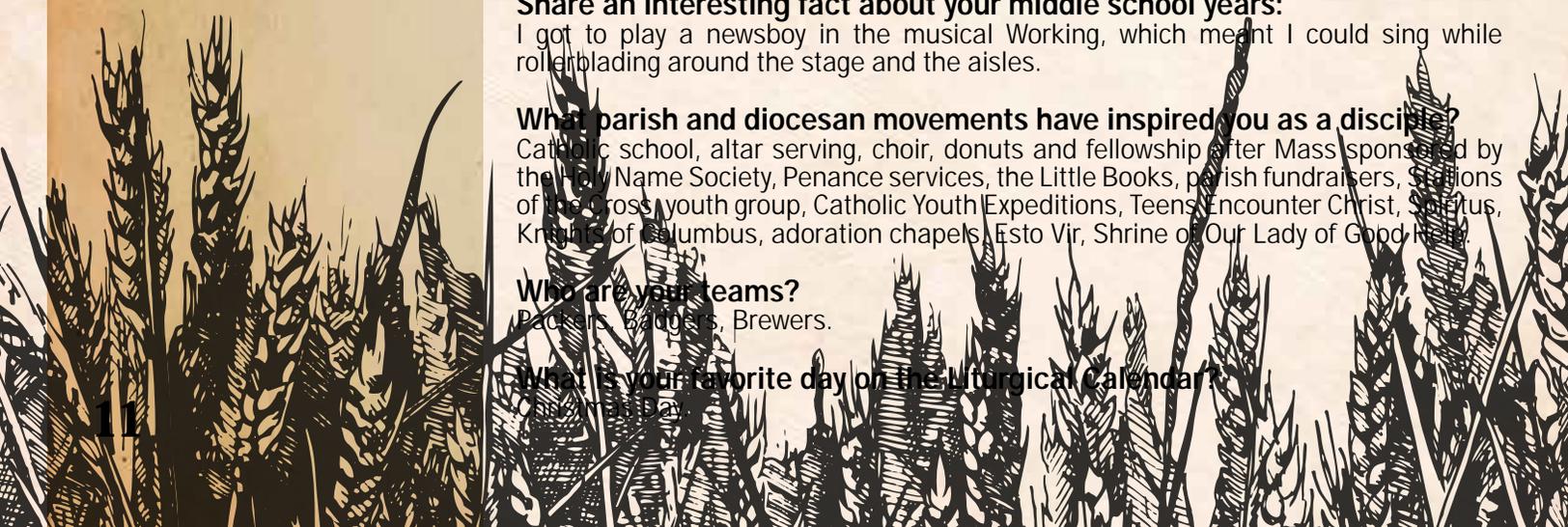
### What parish and diocesan movements have inspired you as a disciple?

Catholic school, altar serving, choir, donuts and fellowship after Mass sponsored by the Holy Name Society, Penance services, the Little Books, parish fundraisers, Stations of the Cross, youth group, Catholic Youth Expeditions, Teens Encounter Christ, Spiritus, Knights of Columbus, adoration chapels, Esto Vir, Shrine of Our Lady of Good Hope

### Who are your teams?

Peacemakers, Bakers, Brewers.

### What is your favorite day on the liturgical calendar?





# Samuel Schultz

## What do you want on your pizza?

Chicken and a healthy dose of barbeque sauce.

## Tell us about a great experience that you had during the summer of 2017.

I was on staff for the new evangelization ministry in our diocese, Love Begins Here. This ministry is based on Mother Teresa's spirituality and well-known saying, "Love begins at home." Working with high school and middle school students throughout the diocese, we reached out to families in our local parishes to help them with chores they could not do themselves and to grow in Christian fellowship. I got to cut down a tree with a chainsaw, lead our small group in prayer, play soccer in the rain, and participate in Eucharistic adoration and reconciliation—all in one day!

## How would you describe the priesthood to a non-believer?

A priest is a leader within a Christian community that fosters unity among its members and also acts as a conduit to help people encounter God. It is not merely something that a man chooses to pursue, like a job or hobby, but it is, in a sense, a calling. A man who is open to the priesthood considers this at a time when the world and Christian communities "call out" to encounter God and to find meaning in their lives. He also is attentive to God's particular calling forth of him and his gifts for the service of God's purposes. The life of priesthood is a joy to the one who accepts it because he is often invited into the most important moments of people's lives like marriage, worship, baptism, conversions, and many other times when God is particularly present. A priest is also blessed to serve the people he is entrusted to, and in a unique way, experience loving others as Jesus loves them.

## Divine Providence is God's active protection and guidance in our lives.

### How have you seen Providence in your life?

I have experienced God's providence in normal day-to-day activities. Sometimes I see it when reading Scripture and a particular verse speaks to what I am going through. Other times I sense God putting particular people in my life who support and help me grow. To trust that God is present and active in one's life takes faith, which is also a gift from God. I have to ask God for this type of faith, to see the world with the presupposition that He is present and at work in my life. One time in my formation at the seminary I had a hard time accepting the Father's love and forgiveness. I had the impression that God's mercy was for everyone else, or at least the worst sinners, but I had not accepted it for myself. I wrestled with this for several weeks until I came across the Scripture passage of the prodigal son and his older brother. I had read this parable many times before but for some reason I needed to hear it again at that time in my life. It was not the younger son that I related with, but the older brother at the end of the passage. After praying with those verses for some time and receiving some direction from a friend, I experienced God's fatherly love in a unique way. This was God's way of attending to my need and guiding my life that I see as Providence.

## Share an interesting fact about your middle school years:

I used to go camping with my family and make home-videos based on the TV show "Man vs. Wild," except this series was called "Sam vs. Wild" and involved things like chasing after deer and jumping into rivers.

## What parish and diocesan movements have inspired you as a disciple?

Alpha serving, March for Life, CYE (Catholic Youth Expeditions), TEC (Teens Encounter Christ), adoration at St. Pius X, and Love Begins Here.

## Who are your teams?

Parkers and my own family (10 team mates)

## What is your favorite day on the Liturgical Calendar?

Holy Thursday

## SEMINARY

Mundelein Seminary  
1000 E Maple Ave  
Mundelein, IL 60060-1967  
Theology II

## BIRTHDAY

June 11

## PARISH

Holy Spirit Parish  
Kimberly

## CONTACT

sschultz@usml.edu

## INTERCESSOR

St. Teresa of Kolkata



# Patrick Costello

## SEMINARY

Pontifical North American College  
00120 Vatican City, V  
Vatican City State, Europe  
Theology I

## U.S. Mailing Address:

220 S. Michigan St.  
De Pere, WI 54115-2794

## BIRTHDAY

April 15

## PARISH

Archdiocese of the Military  
Co-Sponsorship  
St. Margaret Mary Parish  
Neenah

## CONTACT

fencetennis@gmail.com

## INTERCESSOR

St. Mary Magdalene

### What do you want on your pizza?

Hawaiian, mushroom, or pepperoni toppings, with ranch dip on the side.

### Tell us about a great experience that you had during the summer of 2017.

This summer I went with my brother, sister, and my six cousins on our dad's side to visit relatives who still live on the family farm in County Meath, Ireland. We also visited my grandma's second cousin, a religious priest who served many years as a missionary in Africa. He gave us his priestly blessing as we departed, a beautiful moment. Along the way we prayed at holy places of St. Patrick (Hill of Slane, Croagh Patrick) and the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock. We thank the Lord for all the generations who have handed on our Catholic faith.

### How would you describe the priesthood to a non-believer?

St. John Vianney once described the priesthood as "The love of the heart of Jesus." If I had some time to describe the priesthood to a non-believer, I think this quote is a great start. First, we would have to define our terms. What is love? We know that the word "love" in English can be confusing. After all, we use the same word to say "I love ice cream" and "I love my brother"—so what do we really mean by love? If we considered examples of true love, we would probably arrive at a definition for love like that of St. Thomas Aquinas: To love is to will the good of the other. Then, we would move on to "heart," a term we naturally feel represents what is closest and most dear to us. With this human connection established, now we would discuss the final term, the most holy name of Jesus. We would come to see how Jesus, as God, left us His "love of the heart" in the ministry of His priests.

### Divine Providence is God's active protection and guidance in our lives. How have you seen Providence in your life?

In college I had a great Catholic buddy in my discipleship group who used to say "Provi!" every time something happened that he thought was a blessing or a coincidence that was directed from above; a "God-incidence." He would say "Provi!" anytime and place, whether we were going for a jog, at choir practice, or just passing by on the way to class. It may have been a bit goofy, but I came to really appreciate how he gave credit where credit was due. He knew God was not some vague idea or impersonal force, but a loving Father who provides in even the smallest of daily occurrences. This helped open my eyes to see just a few of the thousands of different ways He reaches out and cares for us each and every day. Looking back on my life, Providence has been there in so many of the ordinary and extraordinary moments. The ordinary moments have often been simple and even humorous, like waking up to a snow day after accidentally falling asleep before finishing my homework. One extraordinary moment always sticks out: The time in high school I was with four friends on Highway 41 when we spun out in the left lane, missed the concrete median, crossed all three lanes, and stopped inches before the ditch, hitting no cars in the process. Recently a special moment of Providence was at the very end of my sister's wedding reception when a magnificent double rainbow appeared in the sky.

### Share an interesting fact about your middle school years:

In 8th grade I played the role of Lazar Wolf in The Fiddler on the Roof at our school's annual play. I had to wear a fake beard, which was glued on with an awful chemical substance and had to be tediously removed with a solvent after each performance.

### What parish and diocesan movements have inspired you as a disciple?

Altar serving, singing in parish youth choir, Steppin' Right with Jesus, CCD as a student and teacher, praying the Rosary, Mt. Tabor Center, Father Garr's Place 2B, perpetual adoration chapel at St. Margaret Mary, Sunday evening youth Mass at St. Margaret Mary, NEB Outreach (National Evangelization Team), 40 Days for Life! Knights of Columbus, World Youth Day, FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students), Nightfever (Chicago)

### Who are your teams?

The Green Bay Packers, the Milwaukee Brewers, and the Navy Midshipmen

### What is your favorite day on the liturgical calendar?

Good Friday, especially the Easter Vigil Mass



# Ziggy Gross

## SEMINARY

Mundelein Seminary  
1000 E. Maple Ave.  
Mundelein, IL 60060-1967  
Theology I

## BIRTHDAY

January 18

## PARISH

Good Shepherd Parish  
Chilton

## CONTACT

zygtgross@gmail.com

## INTERCESSOR

St. Claude de la Colombiere

### What do you want on your pizza?

Pepperoni is all I need. A side of ranch for dipping and a Coke are always nice too.

### Tell us about a great experience that you had during the summer of 2017.

This summer I experienced the most intense Eucharistic procession in Oconto (Stiles WI). Daylight was fading when the procession began. The candles, the incense, the monstrance, and the adorners—everything was set. We began processing to a cemetery down a country road. Halfway there storm clouds rolled in and lightning began flashing across the sky. We calmly kept walking down the road singing hymns. Once at the cemetery with the monstrance elevated before a life-size crucifix we prayed while the wind and rain began picking up. We remained in prayer for a moment and processed back to the chapel. Prayerful and awe-filled.

### How would you describe the priesthood to a non-believer?

A call. The priesthood is a call from God. And God only calls people because He wants to commune with them, to know them. In fact deep down every person wants to experience communion with God, everyone wants to be known by God (and others). Specifically, the priesthood is a call for men to live like Jesus Christ. No man should enter the priesthood who does not desire one thing: to be like Jesus. Love like Jesus. No wife would want a husband who did not give himself 100 percent to loving her through his sacrifice for her in his words and actions. So too, the priest is a man in love with God and His Church; a man, who following Jesus, wants to sacrifice his life for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Priesthood allows one to live for the sake of helping others enter into this communion with God both now on earth and continued eternally in heaven. Simply put: the priesthood is sacrifice, and sacrifice is hard but fulfilling.

### Divine Providence is God's active protection and guidance in our lives. How have you seen Providence in your life?

God has always followed me even when I did not want Him to. In high school, I was nervous about living my faith but then I would sense God was with me and nudging me to witness in some way such as speaking out about prolife issues in class when a heated discussion arose. Later in college I focused more on building my social status rather than focusing on growing in virtue. I always sensed that God was trying to speak to me, usually through other people calling me to engage life more fully, more faithfully. Yet I did not want to give God my full yes to His plan for me. Following college I found myself in the lowest part of my life, making poor decisions that negatively affected both me and those around me. When I was twenty-three, at one point I recall hearing God, interiorly, not audibly, asking me when I would simply give my life in all its details over to Him. I remember it so well because I recall sensing God was with me both at that very moment but also during all those moments from high school to college, especially when turning from Him in sin. Wrapped up in that moment were all those prior moments of denying God's call to love while He simply waited with me and for me to turn to Him and ask for His mercy, His love.

### Share an interesting fact about your middle school years:

In middle school I took a summer rock climbing course in Wisconsin Dells. I remember loving it. One night while camping out, rain began pouring into my tent. For some reason I remember having a blast getting soaked that night.

### What parish and diocesan movements have inspired you as a disciple?

Growing up I remember going to Youth 2000 in Oshkosh. I never wanted to go at first, but following the weekend I was hooked up to live my faith. Other than that, it was helping serve at the parish and my mother's stubbornly loving insistence on going to adoration in high school.

### Who are your teams?

Green Bay Packers, Tampa Bay Lightning, Chicago White Sox

### What is your favorite day on the liturgical Calendar?

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity



# Matthew Colle

## SEMINARY

St. Francis de Sales Seminary  
3257 South Lake Dr.  
St. Francis, WI 53235-3702  
Pre-Theology II

## BIRTHDAY

October 21

## PARISH

Immaculate Conception  
Parish, Luxemburg

## CONTACT

mcolle@sfs.edu

## INTERCESSOR

St. John Paul II

### What do you want on your pizza?

Sausage, mushroom, and onion. The most important ingredient on pizza is the sauce. You can get by with okay crust and cheese, but the pizza sauce must be good.

### Tell us about a great experience that you had during the summer of 2017.

I spent the summer in Omaha, NE, at Creighton University along with 175 seminarians from across the country. During the second week of the spiritual formation program we had an eight-day silent retreat. The retreat was in the middle of a busy Creighton campus that made avoiding conversation difficult at times. But there was more to the silent retreat than simply not talking. It was about silencing our hearts and minds in order to hear God's voice. By encountering Christ through meditation and contemplation of the Gospels each day, I experienced God the Father's healing love in a profound way.

### How would you describe the priesthood to a non-believer?

I would need to know my audience. Then I could speak to the non-believer of a priestly identity that he or she most relates to. If the non-believer was a farmer, I would tell him or her that the priest is a shepherd and his people are the sheep. Just as sheep desire green pasture, so too does the faithful long to know, love, and serve their Creator and Redeemer. The priest, like a shepherd, must feed his flock with spiritual food. Such spiritual food includes the body and blood of our Lord in the Sacrament of the Eucharist and the word of God in Sacred Scripture. The priest must also protect his people from sin and evil just as a shepherd defends his flock from disease and predators. The priest does this by the grace of God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and by speaking the truth and beauty of the Gospel. If the non-believer is not a farmer, it may be easier to describe the priest as a spiritual father or physician.

### Divine Providence is God's active protection and guidance in our lives.

#### How have you seen Providence in your life?

I grew up on a beef cattle and sheep farm. Between me and my two brothers, I was always considered the "sheep person" or shepherd. At the time, I certainly was not considering being a shepherd of souls. In Catholic grade school, my pastor told me, "Matthew, I think you are going to be a priest." I remember thinking, "I do not think so." I had my own plans which took me to college to study animal science. There I recall the deacon at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Newman Center saying, "I read this book saying that middle children should never get married." I am a middle child. The deacon is also a middle child happily married with children and grandchildren. I think he proved the book's thesis wrong. Still, I remember him telling me that at a time when the priesthood was the last thing on my mind. It was so far off my radar that after finishing my bachelor's degree I pursued a master's degree in meat science. However, after joining seminary, a classmate from UW-River Falls told me, "I knew you were going to be a priest when we were at River Falls." I had no idea, and I still do not know what God has planned for me. I put all my trust in God's providential care. After all, He has guided me safe thus far.

### Share an interesting fact about your middle school years:

I won an ice cream eating contest at the Kewaunee County Fair. The key to eating ice cream really fast is to keep the ice cream from touching your teeth, which causes a crippling pain. If you do not have dentures, use your lips to curl around your teeth. Practice.

### What parish and diocesan movements have inspired you as a disciple?

Altar serving from third to twelfth grade at my home parish in Luxemburg inspired me the most as a disciple. I especially remember serving for Good Friday services and venerating the Cross. In addition, I still remember the cassock and surplice vesting prayers. Along with serving, acting out the Passion with my fifth and sixth grade class left an impression on my faith. I was Peter both years.

### Who are your teams?

Badgers football, Idaho Vandals, and Bucks basketball. Packers, Badgers, and Vandals football, Brewers baseball.

### What is your favorite day on the liturgical calendar?

Good Friday



# Michael Uchtyl

## SEMINARY

St. Francis de Sales Seminary  
3257 South Lake Dr.  
St. Francis, WI 53235-3702  
Pre-Theology II

## BIRTHDAY

May 10

## PARISH

SS. Peter & Paul Parish  
Hortonville

## CONTACT

muchtyl@sfs.edu

## INTERCESSOR

St. Francis de Sales

### What do you want on your pizza?

Cheese, bacon, and pepperoni with mozzarella cheese stuffed crusts!

### Tell us about a great experience that you had during the summer of 2017.

This last summer has been the best summer of my life. I was blessed to participate in the Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF) program, a nine-week spirituality course in Omaha, NE. As part of the program, we entered into an eight-day silent retreat and found much consolation from encountering the Lord in radically new ways. Through this retreat, the Lord accompanied me into my past and healed many of the wounds, lies, and regrets we found there. Furthermore, through His Abundant Love, I received a deeper sense that I was indeed His beloved son.

### How would you describe the priesthood to a non-believer?

The priesthood refers to the individuals whom God has called to participate in His plan of salvation in a special way. As Catholics, we believe that God exists, created us, and desires to have a relationship with us as His adopted sons and daughters. Though it is a mystery, God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to mediate this relationship as the God-Man. Before returning to Heaven, Jesus gave His apostles the ability to participate in this mediation and to provide the normal means of ministering His graces to the faithful. First and foremost, the priest ministers to the People of God through the total consecration of himself to God. By undertaking celibacy, the priest forgoes an earthly marriage and gives himself entirely to God—entering into the mystical heavenly marriage while here on Earth. Rooted in this spiritual nuptial union, the priest in turn ministers to the people of God through the celebration of the sacraments: mystical acts that impart God's life-giving grace to those who receive them. This is why priests are called "father."

### Divine Providence is God's active protection and guidance in our lives. How have you seen Providence in your life?

I was in an automobile accident several winters ago. Driving home during rush hour, tail lights suddenly began lighting up ahead of me. I slammed on my brakes, but they locked up, and my car began to fishtail. Within a split second, my car swerved into the right lane and slammed into the right-side cement barrier at an angle. The momentum of the impact carried me back out into traffic, spinning the car. Finally, my car came to a rest with my fender perpendicularly touching the barrier. Amazingly, I came away from the incident with only a minor neck strain. Despite the congested freeway, my vehicle neither struck nor was struck by neighboring vehicles. Additionally, after becoming reoriented from the crash, I noticed that the vehicle stopping traffic for me in the rightmost lane was actually an orange dump truck. Fortunately, the driver had enough awareness and time to slow down; I hate to think what would have happened if I had been struck by it. Furthermore, several good Samaritans stopped to ensure that I was relatively healthy and helped me move my car to safety. Lastly, my parents and my insurance provider were available and very generous with their time to help with my recovery. Although my car was totaled, I believe that, thanks to God's Divine Providence, I was not.

### Share an interesting fact about your middle school years:

I helped build a robot which won 1st Build and Performance at the FIRST Lego League State Tournament. We won two awards and were nominated as tournament champions.

### What parish and diocesan movements have inspired you as a disciple?

Spiritus Ministry's bi-weekly "Ignite" bible studies and Confirmation retreat grew my desire for a dynamic relationship with Christ through interactions with the team members. Lighthouse Media CDs and Catholic Answers podcasts were also invaluable during my collegiate and working years. I found much consolation through silent Eucharistic Adoration.

### Who are your teams?

The Green Bay Packers and the Valley High Schooler (VHS) VIX and VIX IQ Robotics.

### What is your favorite day on the liturgical Calendar?

Easter



# Aaron Hietpas

## SEMINARY

St. John Vianney  
College Seminary  
College IV

## Mailing Address:

University of St. Thomas  
2115 Summit Ave. #3404  
St. Paul, MN 55105-1048

## BIRTHDAY

December 27

## PARISH

St. John Nepomucene Parish  
Little Chute

## CONTACT

ahip95@gmail.com

## INTERCESSOR

St. Philip Neri

## What do you want on your pizza?

I enjoy a Hawaiian-style pizza with pineapple, pepperoni, chicken, bacon, and barbeque.

## Tell us about a great experience that you had during the summer of 2017.

This summer I had the opportunity to be on the summer staff of Catholic Youth Expeditions. For our "extreme expedition" we went to Bruce Peninsula in Canada and hiked 100 miles. It was a beautiful experience to be out in the wilderness. I was able to grow in awe of God's creation and in fellowship with the other staff members. On our hike we stayed in the woods, and for Mass I made an altar out of stone, an ambo and a cross. It was a wonderful opportunity to create something beautiful for Christ.

## How would you describe the priesthood to a non-believer?

In the words of St. John Vianney, "The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus." The priesthood is the gift of Christ to His people, the Church. A man offers his life to receive the gift to be Christ to the people that make up the body of the Church. He is in union with Christ as the head of the Church. In that way he shares in the love and ministry of our crucified Lord. The priest is to have the will of the Father at the forefront of his mind and heart at all times. He is to have the Father's heart as his home. The love and intimacy he shares with Jesus and the Holy Spirit is to be his total gift to the people along with his life. The sacrifice and love of Christ and the priesthood is the total gift of self.

## Divine Providence is God's active protection and guidance in our lives. How have you seen Providence in your life?

When I look upon my life I see God's hand working in many ways both great and small. He brought me through the struggles I faced in middle school and high school and showed me the way to grow closer to him. I see how he has brought good out of my sins and the struggles I went through. Out of my sins the Father brought out more good than could ever be imagined. His mercy and grace brought me back to a greater Love of Him. He drew me into a relationship deeper than I ever knew. He also has reminded me of His providence in smaller ways. For instance, I was helping plan an outing for my floor at the seminary. We found the perfect spot at the park, but we had not reserved it. There was a grill, free parking, and a big field across the street. A family had graciously given us plates because we had forgotten ours. The whole outing was given by Christ. We were all worried about the details, but they were all provided for us. God's Providence is a constant reminder that all is gift.

## Share an interesting fact about your middle school years:

I starred in a play based on the story of the prodigal son. The name of the play was "Nowhere to Run." The play was set in the '50s. I ran away from home to go with a biker gang and returned home.

## What parish and diocesan movements have inspired you as a disciple?

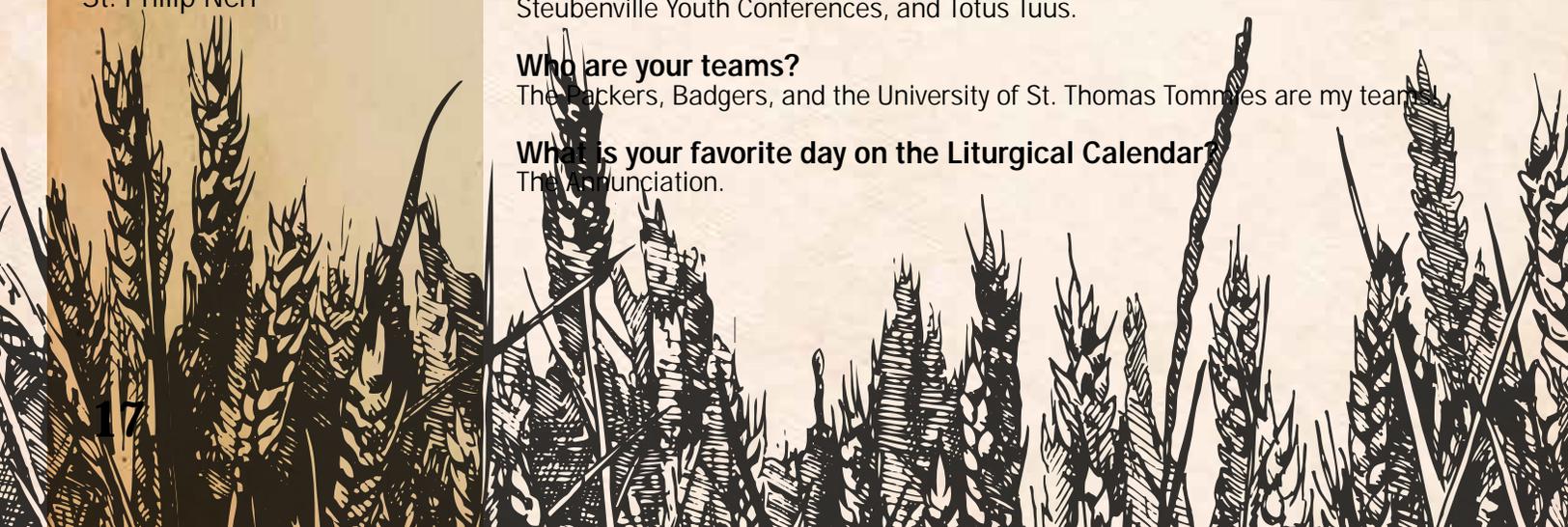
When I got into my faith I really got involved with Extreme Faith Camp, Fire Ministries, Steubenville Youth Conferences, and Totus Tuus.

## Who are your teams?

The Packers, Badgers, and the University of St. Thomas Tommies are my teams.

## What is your favorite day on the Liturgical Calendar?

The Annunciation.





# Nathan Runde

## SEMINARY

St. John Vianney  
College Seminary  
College IV

## Mailing Address:

University of St. Thomas  
2115 Summit Ave. #6131  
St. Paul, MN 55105-1048

## BIRTHDAY

August 6

## PARISH

St. John Nepomucene Parish  
Little Chute

## CONTACT

nrunde555@gmail.com

## INTERCESSOR

St. Thérèse of Lisieux

### What do you want on your pizza?

Oooo! I am a pepperoni guy, but I always like pineapple. Good cheese is important too.

### Tell us about a great experience that you had during the summer of 2017.

I got to serve at Camp Tekakwitha this summer as a camp counselor. I had boys ages twelve through fourteen in my cabin, and they were quite lively and rambunctious. I had a lot of fun harnessing all their energy. On Wednesday nights, we played greased-watermelon football. I would buy a big watermelon, grease it with oil, and then drop it in the middle of the swim area. There were two teams on the opposite sides of the swim area, and the goal was to get the watermelon to the other team's side. It was fun to watch!

### How would you describe the priesthood to a non-believer?

Priesthood is spiritual fatherhood of many sons and daughters. Everyone longs for love. The priest is radically available to offer that love and attention to anyone who seeks it. The priest listens, comforts, affirms, teaches, and guides those who are entrusted to his care. He wants them to know how much they are loved. He wants them to know that they are worth the sacrifice of another person's entire life. He can do this in many ways. He hears confessions to help people receive forgiveness for their mistakes. He spends time spiritually counseling people in their deepest problems. He prays with people on their deathbeds. He is there to serve others. He gives up married love to give that love to all those who seek it. Finally, the priest is ultimately a sign that points to God; his life of sacrifice and love comes from his friendship with God. He brings people not to his own love but to God's love.

### Divine Providence is God's active protection and guidance in our lives.

#### How have you seen Providence in your life?

I often see Divine Providence acting in small ways throughout my life. This past year, I got to go to Lisieux, France, to spend some time with my favorite saint, Thérèse. When my friend and I arrived, we did not think we would be able to get into the retreat center where we were staying since we had gotten there after they closed. Well, we just tried the front door, and it was wide open! The next morning, the sisters who ran the center asked, "How did you get in here? All the doors were supposed to be locked!" I just smiled realizing that St. Thérèse must have been interceding for us. This is a small example of the simple Providence that I experience.

I also recognize how God is using every day experience in order to make me grow into the man He wants me to be. Two summers ago, I went to Catholic Youth Expeditions for the summer and that was just what I needed at that time in formation. Last summer at Camp Tekakwitha was also just what I needed in my formation. I am realizing more and more that every daily experience, whether joyful or difficult, is from God's hand, and He is loving me, guiding me, and forming me through those events.

### Share an interesting fact about your middle school years:

I started competing in powerlifting competitions when I was in eighth grade. I loved lifting weights and being stronger than the high school students!

### What parish and diocesan movements have inspired you as a disciple?

I went to a service event called SHE Camp at my parish in middle school. I went to Stebbenville conferences every summer in high school, and I was also involved with Extreme Faith Camp. I went on Catholic Youth Expeditions, and I got to be on staff there two summers ago. I had an awesome summer this past year at Camp Tekakwitha too. Our diocese is full of life!

### Who are your teams?

Go Red!

### What is your favorite day on the Liturgical Calendar?

The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary



# Andrew LeGreve

## SEMINARY

Mundelein Seminary  
1000 E. Maple Ave.  
Mundelein, IL 60060-1967  
Pre-Theology I

## BIRTHDAY

June 22

## PARISH

St. Agnes Parish  
Green Bay

## CONTACT

legrevea@gmail.com

## INTERCESSOR

St. John Vianney

### What do you want on your pizza?

Cheese, red sauce, sausage, pepperoni, onions, jalapenos, and garlic sauce.

### Tell us about a great experience that you had during the summer of 2017.

The best experience of my summer was making the transition out of my nine-to-five engineering job into seminary. As I had expected, it was a shock to everyone when I gave my seven-week notice. However, I did not expect the unanimously warm reception of the news. I thought that surely someone would tell me I was crazy for leaving behind what I had for something completely new, but no one did. Instead, this diverse group of people, including Catholics, other Christians, and nonreligious, simply affirmed the importance of the priesthood and offered their support.

### How would you describe the priesthood to a non-believer?

Analogies always fall apart, but one perspective is that the priesthood is a type of fatherhood: a spiritual one. Much like any other father, a priest is tasked with caring for his children. Many would be the people who live around or near the priest's parish. Every child's life begins with birth, and a priest administers spiritual life in the waters of Baptism. As a father, he loves his children and teaches them what is important in life, and where (in Whom) all goodness is found (God). A good father cares for the health and wellbeing of his children. He feeds them regularly (the Eucharist), and when they act out he disciplines them gently (replacing vice with virtue). When they are spiritually sick (sin), he brings them to a doctor (Sacrament of Reconciliation). Ultimately, a father wants his children to flourish and to live a good life, so he does everything in his power to lead his children to true happiness and fulfillment (Heaven).

### Divine Providence is God's active protection and guidance in our lives.

#### How have you seen Providence in your life?

The most obvious place in my life where I have seen God's providence occurred when I was 11 years old. There was a tragic death on my father's side of the family. In that horrible period of time God did not abandon our family and instead created good out of evil. He used the tragedy to pull our family closer together and helped us realize the true importance of religion. With the benefit of hindsight, I see that this laid the groundwork for my spiritual awakening and eventually my discernment of the priesthood. Here is the chain of events: My parents became very involved in Christian Experience Weekends (CEW) since they understood the need to foster their faith and be a part of Christian community. CEW changed their lives so much that I knew it was important and went as soon as I was able (18 years old). After my first retreat I finally started owning my faith. Over the years I stayed involved and even took on team positions. This February, six years later, I organized and lead the CEW retreat in Denmark, WI. That weekend and that community really sparked my discernment. God further kindled my search with many subtle affirmations. When I look back at what God has done for me, His work is mind-blowing! I find that the key is to be aware that God acts in our lives on a daily basis in sometimes bold, but mostly subtle ways.

### Share an interesting fact about your middle school years:

In my later years of middle school I would frequently be called to the principal's office, not to be disciplined, but rather to give tech support! These tasks included burning files to discs, getting music or videos to play, running anti-virus, etc.

### What parish and diocesan movements have inspired you as a disciple?

I would say that altar serving, adoration, FOCUS, Christian Experience Weekends, daily Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours, and the Esto Vir Men's Conference have had the biggest impact on me as a disciple.

### Who are your teams?

Hoops for the Packers, Brewers, and Admirals (minor league hockey).

### What is your favorite day on the Liturgical Calendar?

My favorite is Divine Mercy Sunday, the first pizza stand-out feast day in a world that sadly needs God's mercy. Also, I always love having opportunity to get a plenary indulgence.



# Brandon Lewandowski

## SEMINARY

St. Francis de Sales Seminary  
3257 South Lake Dr.  
St. Francis, WI 53235-3702  
Pre-Theology I

## BIRTHDAY

April 22

## PARISH

Sacred Heart Parish  
Shawano

## CONTACT

blewandowski@sfs.edu

## INTERCESSOR

St. Faustina Kowalska

### What do you want on your pizza?

I like pepperoni on pizza, although I recently have found it too greasy. Sausage is delicious as well, and pineapple can be fun for a change.

### Tell us about a great experience that you had during the summer of 2017.

I had great family bonding time with my dad, twin brother, and uncle on a walleye fishing trip to Canada. Although it was a bad year, according to my uncle who goes every summer, we caught plenty to eat and enough to bring back. I also caught, by accident, a 42-inch muskie. It was a mess to get off the line, so we vowed to never catch one again. Fifty-nine minutes later, I got a 48-inch slimebag on the same lure. The next day, the lure was cut off by some fish's teeth.

### How would you describe the priesthood to a non-believer?

Priests are the primary messengers between God and His Church. The messages are occasionally just that, prayers to God and preaching to or teaching the people. But the priesthood goes beyond that. Priesthood is a way of life, not a job. Just as Jesus stood as the perfect mediator between humanity and God, priests share in Christ's High Priesthood to perform the works of God in the Sacraments. These mysterious acts were revealed by Jesus and then ritually developed by the Church. They are reliable access to miracles. God cooperates with the Sacraments to change people in seemingly abstract, but very real ways. For example, the Sacrament of Reconciliation heals the wounds of sin by erasing the taint from reality, past, present, and future. This reliable healing and union with God only comes through the mediation of priests. Like Christ, priests shepherd a parish of believers, taking care of them spiritually and sometimes emotionally or physically.

### Divine Providence is God's active protection and guidance in our lives. How have you seen Providence in your life?

The clearest example of Providence is protection in my life, which occurred last winter. My brother and I visited home for a couple events on a weekend. It snowed all day on Sunday, but we had to get back to college, so we drove. He was under the speed limit and slower than anyone else on the roads, but a patch of slush on a curve sent us across the road into a field. There was not a car in the opposite lane at that time. Praise God. However, there was a massive drainage ditch in the field. The car got turned around backwards and the steering and brakes would not work in the slippery, snow-filled field. The vehicle flipped once and ended up sideways and nose down in the drainage ditch. The car was dead, but my brother escaped with a moderate cut on his hand and behind his ear, and I walked away with no injuries whatsoever. When this happened, he had been praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and I had been praying the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary. From that moment, I knew that even if I failed early and often, I absolutely needed to follow God's will in my life, not my own. My life is a gift from Him, so I ought to return it.

### Share an interesting fact about your middle school years:

In fifth grade, I started doing Tae Kwon Do and have continued for 12 years. Unfortunately, seminary makes it difficult to continue, except in private. I was really putting aside from that, doing things like enjoying education.

### What parish and diocesan movements have inspired you as a disciple?

I began altar serving in sixth grade and have been one ever since. In college, I participated in a Bible study for four years and in several retreats and other events.

### Who are your teams?

Packers through family influence. I'm not big on sports.

### What is your favorite day on the Liturgical Calendar?

Good Friday



# Ben Pribbenow

## SEMINARY

Mundelein Seminary  
1000 E. Maple Ave.  
Mundelein, IL 60060-1967  
Pre-Theology I

## BIRTHDAY

October 8

## PARISH

Holy Spirit Parish  
Kimberly

## CONTACT

[bpribbenow@usml.edu](mailto:bpribbenow@usml.edu)

## INTERCESSOR

St. Thérèse of Lisieux

### What do you want on your pizza?

I will eat just about anything you put on pizza. I particularly enjoy a good Jack's Supreme Pizza.

### Tell us about a great experience that you had during the summer of 2017.

A great experience I had during summer of 2017 was teaching a Theology of the Body class to high school students from my parish. I am passionate about this subject so I welcomed the idea of teaching the Theology of the Body. It is critical that we, as a Church, share this good news with today's youth. That being said, it was a challenge to cater St. John Paul II's teaching to my students. Despite this challenge, I learned a lot about the diligent preparation required to effectively teach a difficult subject. I look forward to similar opportunities in the future!

### How would you describe the priesthood to a non-believer?

I would describe the priesthood to a non-believer as a special kind of fatherhood. A good father does his best to put the needs of his children before his own. Although a priest does not get married to a woman or have biological children, he has many spiritual daughters and sons, who call the priest "Father." Priests serve their spiritual children by being radically available to them and walking alongside them through the journey of life. Just as a good Father provides for his children, priests bring life, joy, and healing to people through the good news of the Gospel and Sacraments. They serve as a beacon of hope in a world searching for meaning. It is the priest's task to remain steadfast in his faith in the midst of difficult circumstances. Each of these responsibilities is meant to bring people into a closer relationship with God, which is the key duty of a priest.

### Divine Providence is God's active protection and guidance in our lives. How have you seen Providence in your life?

Thinking back, I have noticed Divine Providence constantly at work. One specific example was when I was applying to college. My acceptance to UW-Madison was originally postponed. This decision meant that the admissions department at UW was not willing to accept or deny my entrance at that time. Upon receiving this notice, part of me wanted to just write off UW-Madison altogether and decide to attend another school. Fortunately, I put in extra work to improve the merits of my application and was ultimately accepted to UW-Madison. I decided to attend Madison where I grew in my faith through Bible studies, large-group sessions, and prayer. It was also at the UW where I felt my call to the priesthood. Had I not decided to put in the work to get into Madison, I might not be sitting in my room at the seminary right now. Perhaps, the Lord would have still led me to the seminary had I chosen a different university. That is something I will never know, but I do know that Divine Providence has been at play throughout my entire life, guiding me on the path the Lord desires.

### Share an interesting fact about your middle school years:

When I was in middle school, I contributed to re-writing the lyrics to "Don't Stop Believing" by Journey for my school's "Pep Rally for God." Basically, we made the lyrics representative of Catholic beliefs, and it was awesome.

### What parish and diocesan movements have inspired you as a disciple?

As a child, I was most inspired by activities surrounding the liturgy that I learned at Holy Spirit School in Darboy. I was an altar server, a member of my parish's youth choir, and a lector. As I have grown older, I have been inspired by the fruit that has come by praying in perpetual adoration chapels, specifically the one at St. Pius X in Appleton.

### Who are your teams?

Wisconsin Badgers, Green Bay Packers, Milwaukee Brewers, Milwaukee Bucks, and the NFL.

### What is your favorite day on the Liturgical Calendar?

The Holy Triduum in anticipation of Easter.



# Jace Scheffler

## SEMINARY

St. John Vianney  
College Seminary  
College III

## Mailing Address:

University of St. Thomas  
2115 Summit Ave. #6312  
St. Paul, MN 55105-1048

## BIRTHDAY

December 19

## PARISH

St. John the Baptist Parish  
Menasha

## CONTACT

jjscheffler@outlook.com

## INTERCESSOR

St. Thérèse of Lisieux

### What do you want on your pizza?

I would like fried cheese curds, bacon, onions, and a lot of mozzarella cheese on my pizza, please.

### Tell us about a great experience that you had during the summer of 2017.

As a Totus Tuus teacher this summer, my team and I had the opportunity to perform many small skits for the children. Performing brought me great joy, but one of the more memorable moments about "Totus Tuus Theatre" was having dinner one evening with one of the families. After the meal, the kids all scurried into the house and reenacted, with much accuracy and pizzazz, all the skits we had done for them that week.

### How would you describe the priesthood to a non-believer?

The priesthood is servitude to every human person he encounters. Certain men are asked to be these servants by someone they love more than all else. They are not asked to do this because of their abilities or status in life. They are only asked to allow themselves to be loved even more by this person by being weak and vulnerable with Him. The man who chooses this way of life desires it from the depths of his heart and knows with confidence that this is his mission in life. The priest is dedicated first to his relationship with this real person who asked him to be a servant, and second to the relationship he has with the people he encounters in his ordinary day-to-day. This relationship with others is of great concern for him as he desires from the depths of his heart to introduce these ordinary people to the person he knows cares more deeply about them than themselves—the living person of Jesus Christ, who is God.

### Divine Providence is God's active protection and guidance in our lives. How have you seen Providence in your life?

Prior to entering seminary, while attending my previous university, I signed up for a 4-month study-abroad program in China. I ended up discerning seminary a few months before traveling to China, but the timing of my discernment and the application process happened in such a convenient way as to allow me to go abroad. I studied Chinese in high school and college before embarking on the journey, so I was mildly prepared for the immersion, but I did not know whether I would receive any of the Sacraments of the Catholic Church while I was there. After less than two weeks of acclimating to my new life in China, I experienced God's Divine Providence in the form of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption in Ningbo, China—the city in which I studied. There was almost no way I could have missed a Sunday Mass in Ningbo as the Cathedral sent a coach bus every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. to pick up the English-speaking international students at my university for the English Mass. There was a small, yet active, international community of Catholics and a bilingual priest that allowed me to receive the Sacraments and continue to fall in love with Jesus Christ. I even went on a pilgrimage to some prominent churches in the Diocese of Shanghai with the local congregation of the parish. God met me in this unfamiliar place and never ceased loving or protecting me. Praise God!

### Share an interesting fact about your middle school years:

I raced kneel-down, open-cockpit race boats with modified fishing engines on lakes around the Midwest and nationally with my family. I was racing boats capable of reaching speeds around 45 m.p.h. Each race permitted up to 12 boats on oval two-turn courses.

### What parish and diocesan movements have inspired you as a disciple?

Movements that have inspired me as a disciple have been: altar serving, lectoring, Spiritus retreats, Catholic Heart Work Camp, National Catholic Youth Conference, high school Bible studies, Knights of Columbus events, Newman Center events, Lifest, Liturgy of the Hours, World Youth Day, Focus' Seek Conference, Vianney visits, Walk for Vocations, St. Andrew Dinners, Totus Tuus, singing in sacred polyphonic choirs, and local Adoration chapels.

### Who are your teams?

Packer Brewers, Green Bay Gamblers, Team USA (soccer), and the MNCS Zeppys!

### What is your favorite day on the liturgical calendar?

October 31—the Feast of All Saints and the Holy Rosary



# Juan Altamirano

## SEMINARY

Immaculate Heart of Mary  
College Seminary  
ESL Year

## Mailing Address:

St. Mary's University of  
Minnesota  
700 Terrace Heights 668  
Winona, MN 55987-1399

## BIRTHDAY

June 24

## PARISH

St. Therese Parish  
Appleton

## CONTACT

jcalta17@smumn.edu

## INTERCESSOR

St. Francis of Assisi

### What do you want on your pizza?

I want double cheese, pepperoni, green peppers, onions, and sun-dried tomatoes on my pizza.

### Tell us about a great experience that you had during the summer of 2017.

A great experience I had during the summer of 2017 was visiting my home country, Nicaragua, for four days. The experience began when I arrived at the Atlanta airport. I met the cardinal from Nicaragua, who was on the same flight to Nicaragua. I had the opportunity to talk to him and to receive his blessing. During my four days in Nicaragua, I had a great time with my family and friends. The time went by very quickly, and I was not able to greet all my relatives and friends. However, going home is always a blessing.

### How would you describe the priesthood to a non-believer?

The priesthood is a sacred duty performed by priests through the grace of the Holy Spirit in communion with the Catholic Church. The priesthood is sacred because it comes from God and is fulfilled in Jesus, the High Priest. The priesthood is a duty because it requires the exercise of multiple divine powers, such as the forgiveness of sins, the consecration of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus Christ, and the role of a priest to act in the person of Jesus Christ. Therefore, the priesthood is the sacred duty that administers divine powers in order for people to get to Jesus and for Jesus to get to the people. Consequently, the priesthood is a gift from God to us so we can receive what we need for our salvation. The priesthood also anticipates the kind of life we all will have in heaven. The priesthood is a visible sign of the love of Jesus Christ for us, His children.

### Divine Providence is God's active protection and guidance in our lives.

#### How have you seen Providence in your life?

When I was 15 years old, I moved from a small rural community to a large city. Due to a lack of schools, my parents sent me to live with an aunt in order for me to finish my last two years of high school. Even though the obstacles were many, the Divine Providence of God was greater. I graduated from high school, and one year later, I was awarded a scholarship to study for two years at a technical college in Wisconsin. God brought me to the United States and blessed me with many wonderful friends and an incredible host mom. When I first came to Wisconsin, I did not know any English, and I thought that I was not going to be able to complete the academic program. However, through the Divine Providence of God, represented by my host mom, teachers, counselors, and friends, I was able to overcome the challenges of living in a new culture, learning a new language, and being apart from my family. Thanks to God and to all of those wonderful people, this past summer I graduated from college. Moreover, the biggest blessing I have received from God's Providence has been the opportunity of getting to know Him better through the prayers, supports, and kindness of the many wonderful people with whom I have interacted. The Providence of God has led me to recognize that everything is a gift.

### Share an interesting fact about your middle school years:

Since I was a year older than my classmates and was confirmed before them, I became their Confirmation catechist. Therefore, during a certain time of the day, I stood in front of the class and taught my own classmates.

### What parish and diocesan movements have inspired you as a disciple?

Two movements that have inspired me as a disciple have been the charismatic prayer group, Cristo Vive at St. Therese Parish in Appleton, and Catholic Youth Expeditions.

### Who are your teams?

My favorite team is the Green Bay Packers. "Go Pack, Go!"

### What is your favorite day on the Liturgical Calendar?

My favorite day on the Liturgical Calendar is Easter Sunday.



# Peter Vande Hey

## SEMINARY

St. John Vianney  
College Seminary  
College II

## Mailing Address:

University of St. Thomas  
2115 Summit Ave. #6071  
St Paul, MN 55105-1048

## BIRTHDAY

February 8

## PARISH

St. Katharine Drexel Parish  
Kaukauna

## CONTACT

vandeheyp@yahoo.com

## INTERCESSOR

St. Peter Canisius

### What do you want on your pizza?

Tomato sauce, extra mozzarella, pepperoni, black olive, red pepper, cheese-stuffed crust, and a pinch of Parmesan.

### Tell us about a great experience that you had during the summer of 2017.

I biked to and from work this summer on a route that was roughly five miles long. Although I used to take the long-cut to work, (a noisy, chaotic, hilly path meandering close to a highway), this summer I started taking back roads. I zoomed past the quiet, residential neighborhoods and shaved off a few minutes of total traveling time by not waiting for traffic. At night, I reminded myself of God's ever-loving and guiding presence by praying Night Prayer on the way home. God is always with me—even while biking in the black of night.

### How would you describe the priesthood to a non-believer?

In a world that is becoming increasingly selfish, it is critical that people step forward to offer sacrifices. The priest, for thousands of years, has been a man from the community specifically chosen to offer sacrifices on behalf of his people. The sacrifice of the Mass today is much less bloody compared to the atonements for sin that priests offered in the Old Testament. However, the reminder of what our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, did for us is as important now as ever. Also, on account of all the selfishness in our world, there is much pain and suffering that needs healing. Priests administer the outward signs of grace that Jesus gave us to heal those who are hurting through the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick. Priests, men of heroic virtue and sacrifice, are tangible signs of good in this world.

### Divine Providence is God's active protection and guidance in our lives.

#### How have you seen Providence in your life?

At my Baptism, God said, "You are mine," and placed an indelible mark on my soul, claiming me as His beloved son. On that day, I received my inheritance of being a priest, a prophet, and a king. God decided that I was His son and that He would look out for me in His Divine Providence. When I lose sight of my identity, I sin. I long for something, anything, to fill the whole in my heart that was designed for nothing but God.

In a way eerily like Anakin Skywalker, I am a slow learner. I try to love God with my whole heart, mind, soul, and strength, but I fall short of the mark. I get my priorities screwed up, thinking that I know what's best for me, that I know what will make me happy, and that I know the best way to live. In the moments where I reject God and His endless love, my soul cries out for God's love, mercy, and grace—and God, in His Providence—has always been there for me gently nudging me toward His Sacred Heart from which endless mercy flows. Mercy is why we have the sacraments. Mercy is why we have priests.

### Share an interesting fact about your middle school years:

In middle school, I loved categorizing my vast collection of trading cards. I would arrange them alphabetically by last name and team, or by career statistics by position. When I discovered Fantasy Sports, I started letting computer programs do all that for me.

### What parish and diocesan movements have inspired you as a disciple?

Altar serving, Boy Scouts of America, Mark Hart's Teen Guide to the Bible series, Spiritus repleats and Ignite, Good Friday Food Fast, Teens Encounter Christ, Young Neighbors in Action, Colorado Leadership Retreat, and lecturing and cantoring at Mass.

### Who are your teams?

Packers, Brewers, and Tommie's

### What is your favorite day on the Liturgical Calendar?

June 29th, St. Peter and Paul

# Office of Vocations

## Fr. Daniel Schuster



### Vocation Director

#### Home Parish:

Most Blessed Sacrament Parish  
Oshkosh, WI

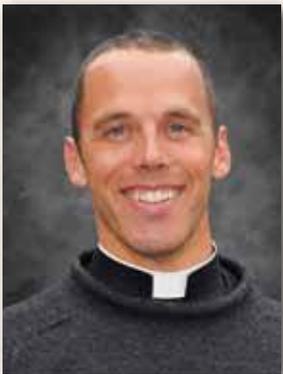
#### Contact:

(920) 272-8293  
dschuster@gbdioc.org

#### Schools Attended:

Drake University, Des Moines, IA  
BS Business Management  
Mundelein Seminary  
STB Sacred Theology, M. Div  
The Liturgical Institute

## Fr. Quinn Mann



### Associate Vocation Director

#### Catholic Youth Expeditions:

Founder/Spiritual Director

#### Contact:

(920) 312-0070  
fatherquinnmann@gmail.com

## Prayer for Vocations

O God,  
who willed to provide shepherds for your people,  
pour out in your Church  
a spirit of piety and fortitude,  
to raise up worthy ministers for your altars  
and make them ardent  
yet gentle heralds of your Gospel.  
Through Christ our Lord.

*Collect of the Mass for Vocations to Holy Orders  
from The Roman Missal: Third Typical Edition*

## Litany of Saints for Our Seminarians

*Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!*

*SS. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, pray for us!*

*St. Joseph, pray for us!*

*SS. Peter & Paul, pray for us!*

*SS. John & James, pray for us!*

*St. Mary Magdalene, pray for us!*

*St. Stephen, pray for us!*

*St. Ignatius of Antioch, pray for us!*

*St. Agnes, pray for us!*

*St. Maximilian Kolbe, pray for us!*

*St. Augustine, pray for us!*

*St. Francis de Sales, pray for us!*

*St. John Paul II, pray for us!*

*St. Benedict, pray for us!*

*St. Francis of Assisi, pray for us!*

*St. Ignatius Loyola, pray for us!*

*St. Francis Xavier, pray for us!*

*St. Peter Canisius, pray for us!*

*St. Claude de la Colombière, pray for us!*

*St. Philip Neri, pray for us!*

*St. John Marie Vianney, pray for us!*

*St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, pray for us!*

*St. Faustina Kowalska, pray for us!*

*St. Kateri Tekakwitha, pray for us!*

*St. Teresa of Kolkata, pray for us!*

*St. Josemaria Escrivá, pray for us!*

*Blessed John Henry Newman, pray for us!*

*Blessed Solanus Casey, pray for us!*

*All holy men and women, Saints of God,*

**PRAY FOR US!**

# 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 & 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, Frassatti field for intense games of ultimate frisbee, and a super simple chapel for the sacraments.

To Learn More:  
[www.cyeexpeditions.org](http://www.cyeexpeditions.org)

**St. Joseph Formation Center**  
503 S. Oregon Road  
Belle Harbor, WI 54202  
920.874.0290 (north office)

**CYE Base Camp**  
353 Main Ave  
De Pere, WI 54115  
920.874.3621 (south office)

# DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION for Vocations

## **November 16 - 18, 2017 | Vianney Visit**

[www.stthomas.edu/vianney/events/visittheseminary](http://www.stthomas.edu/vianney/events/visittheseminary)  
A road trip to the University of St. Thomas and St. John Vianney Seminary.

## **Sunday, December 3rd, 2017 | GBYC (Green Bay Youth Conference)**

[www.gbresources.org/events.html](http://www.gbresources.org/events.html)  
Our own annual youth rally at the Kl center in Green Bay.

## **December 29-31, 2017 | Duc in Altum (High School)**

[www.thinkpriest.org/duc-in-altum-retreat.htm](http://www.thinkpriest.org/duc-in-altum-retreat.htm)  
A silent discernment retreat held at the Mt. Tabor Center for high school men open to the priesthood.

## **Tuesday, January 9, 2018 | St. Andrew Dinner**

[www.gbdioc.org/andrew](http://www.gbdioc.org/andrew)  
5:30 PM Mass and Supper with Bishop Ricken in Green Bay, including formation on the priesthood.

## **January 12 - 14, 2018 | Duc in Altum (Young Adult)**

[www.thinkpriest.org/duc-in-altum-retreat.htm](http://www.thinkpriest.org/duc-in-altum-retreat.htm)  
A silent discernment retreat held at St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee for young adult men open to the priesthood.

## **January 16 - 21, 2018 | March 4 Life Washington, DC**

[www.gbresources.org/march-for-life.html](http://www.gbresources.org/march-for-life.html)  
A pilgrimage with many young people witnessing to life.

## **Saturday, March 3, 2018 Esto Vir Men's Conference**

[www.estovir.com](http://www.estovir.com)  
Annual men's conference and a great event for fathers and sons to be together.

## **April 2 -7, 2018 | M.D. '18 Epic Experience**

A life-changing spiritual pilgrimage, as missionary disciples, for discerning high school men to Southern California in the footsteps of St. Junipero Serra including a day of deep sea fishing (and maybe surfing). If you are interested, please let us know soon! Accepting donations.

## **Saturday, May 5, 2018 | Walk to Mary**

[www.walktomary.com](http://www.walktomary.com)  
A 23-mile walk from St. Joseph Shrine to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. Walk with the Vocation Director!

## **Sunday, June 3, 2018 Transitional Diaconate Ordination**

Visit the Cathedral and pray at this beautiful liturgy as our next class of seminarian disciples is ordained to the diaconate at 3:00 PM.

## **Saturday, June 30, 2018 Priesthood Ordination**

Be inspired as another group of seminarians lay down their lives (literally) at the Cathedral as they are ordained to the priesthood at 10:00 AM.

## **ALL YEAR ROUND Catholic Youth Expeditions**

[www.cyexpeditions.org](http://www.cyexpeditions.org)  
A smattering of offerings for youth and young adults. There are many adventures in prayer and life that await you at Kangaroo Lake in Door County with Fr. Quinn and the Missionaries of the Word.

## **Discernment**

Contact Fr. Schuster any time.  
920.272.8293 | [vocations@gbdioc.org](mailto:vocations@gbdioc.org)

*For additional information about any of these events, please contact Fr. Schuster.*

**Fr. Daniel Schuster | [vocations@gbdioc.org](mailto:vocations@gbdioc.org) | 920.272.8293**



Diocese of  
Green Bay