

# DCN. NATHAN BUDDE

## Seminary

St. Francis de Sales Seminary  
3257 S. Lake Drive  
St. Francis, WI 53235-3702

## Year

Configuration IV

## Birthday

March 6

## Parish

St. Mary Parish,  
Ledgewood

## Contact

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## What is the best type of ice cream?

As a holder of Cedar Crest's "Licker License," it is my infallible, expert opinion that "Cookie Dough" is not merely an excellent flavor of ice cream, but indeed the best.

## What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

One thing that I thought I would never be able to overcome was my fear of public speaking. Over my time in seminary, I not only became more comfortable with speaking in front of others, but now I find preaching at Mass among my favorite aspects of diaconal ministry.

## What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

One of the first things I remember learning about Jesus is the story of his life in the Bible. More specifically, I remember as a young child reading *The Rhyming Bible* with my parents. Through this paraphrase of the Gospels, I particularly recall learning about his birth on Christmas, the miracle of feeding the five thousand, the conversion of Zaccheus, and his death and resurrection.

## How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

At the beginning of the year, I was blessed to participate in the opening Mass for the Jubilee Year at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Green Bay. Over the course of the summer, I was able to offer Holy Hours of Hope at my summer assignment at St. Thomas the Apostle in Newton. During each of these Holy Hours, I offered a brief reflection on the upcoming Sunday's Gospel and the theological virtue of hope, which deepened my own prayer and awareness of how hope is always offered to us in the Sacred Scriptures.

## What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

My favorite verse from St. Paul is 2 Corinthians 12:9, "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'" Two summers ago, I was assigned to go to the Dominican Republic to learn Spanish and gain missionary experience. I remember having many fears about the summer. I felt very vulnerable

during this time because nothing was up to me. I could not choose what I did each day; I could not choose what I ate; I could not choose where we went or who I would be with; I could not even choose which language I spoke to communicate with others. At Mass on Corpus Christi during my first week there, I shared these fears with Jesus and, as I did so, I read this verse from Scripture. In that Mass, throughout that summer, and in the years since, Jesus showed me over and over again how His grace is sufficient for me and that He always takes care of me.

## Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

I aspire to grow in the virtue of perseverance that St. Paul exemplified in his ministry. The virtue of perseverance is the habit of persisting in a good action, even amid difficulty, until it is accomplished. Among all the saints, I can think of no greater exemplar of this virtue than St. Paul in his ministry to the Gentiles. In 2 Corinthians 11, he describes at length to the Church in Corinth all that he has suffered and endured for the sake of preaching the Gospel: imprisonments, beatings, shipwrecks, robbers, sleepless nights, hunger and thirst, and the list goes on. St. Paul never let any of these trials keep him from proclaiming the Gospel with the same zeal with which he first preached it after his conversion. This is a level of perseverance that is not only admirable, but heroic. Rather than leading him to discouragement or tempering his efforts, these obstacles seemed to give him greater fire to offering the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth! This is a virtue that does not come easily. I have grown immensely in it over the course of six years of seminary, but there is always more room to grow and one that does not always come naturally to me. My prayer is that I might continue to grow in the heroic perseverance exemplified by St. Paul as I finish my last year of seminary and begin priestly ministry.

## Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. Stephen.** Please pray that through his intercession, I might live out my diaconal service to the Church faithfully and prepare for ordination to the priesthood in a few short months.



# JACOB BOVEE

## Seminary

St. Francis de Sales Seminary  
3257 S. Lake Drive  
St. Francis, WI 53235-3702

## Year

Configuration III

## Birthday

September 16

## Parish

St. Mary of the Immaculate  
Conception Parish,  
Greenville

## Contact

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## What is the best type of ice cream?

Spumoni. I have only learned about this recently, but it's layers of chocolate, cherry, and pistachio with actual fruit and nuts within. Ultimate combo.

## What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

Staying Catholic through college. It is tempting to abandon the faith when so many of your friends and peers do just that and seem to enjoy themselves just fine. It was a great test of will not to follow them, and I consider it a great victory to have persevered.

## What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

I think the first thing I learned about Jesus was that he made the world. I loved being outside with my dad, and I wanted to know how the woods and the lake got there, and he told me Jesus put them there for us. From then on, I made sure to ask Jesus to keep "nature and water and the wild healthy" every night just in case he changed his mind!

## How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

I have made a few pilgrimages to the Basilica of St. Josaphat in Milwaukee for the indulgence, which is beautiful. I have also tried to be more intentional about being generous with my resources, especially with those who I encounter in regular day-to-day life. I think generosity, whether in time or goods, is a great way to inspire hope in another person's life. It reminds us we are not alone, and obstacles which once seemed insurmountable are no longer so daunting.

## What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God" (1 Cor 5:9-11).

I love these verses because they are bold. There is an immediate shock factor. In fact, I think there are many today who find it so harsh that we try to "reinterpret" this passage to have a softer message. But I think these words sounded just as harsh to the Corinthians as they sound to modern ears. They encapsulate why "the road is narrow and seldom trod." Being a Christian means we must leave our sin behind. We must repent, and that is hard. But it is good to know what we must do.

## Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

Zeal. I am deeply inspired by St. Paul's bold words. He knew that his preaching would get him in trouble with the Romans, and that it would make many people angry, yet he continued to preach because he knew that spreading the truth is worth every difficulty. He was driven to preach the truth of the Gospel, no matter what it cost him, whether he lost social prestige, was imprisoned, tortured, or even killed for it. I want that kind of zeal, because many things we have to say as Christians about the world around us are not easy. It is not easy to stand in front of someone and challenge them to be a better person. Yet if we truly desire to help each other reach heaven, we must challenge each other. I pray to God that I might have even a fraction of St. Paul's zeal, so I might speak the truth to all, especially when it is hard. Plus, zeal is a great defense against apathy. If I am zealous, then it means I care about the world enough to try and help it rather than standing by and watching it suffer. I certainly hope that I always care enough to say and do what must be said and done.

## Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. Ambrose.** Like St. Paul, he had great zeal as he defended the Church from Arianism. The teacher of Augustine, I trust him also to help me prepare for ordination to the diaconate.



# NICHOLAS VANDE HEY

## Seminary

Pontifical North American College  
00120 Vatican City State, Europe

## Mailing Address:

W2541 County Rd JJ  
Kaukauna, WI 54130-9329

## Year

Configuration III

## Parish

Holy Cross Parish,  
Kaukauna

## Birthday

March 11

## Contact

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## What is the best type of ice cream?

The kind Fr. Mark Mleziva (our vocation director) buys when you are home from seminary because it is free and Wisconsin dairy is the best!

## What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

While going an entire summer without losing a game of cornhole is a close second, perhaps the greatest personal victory is building authentic friendships. Real friendships that are not just based on convenience are challenging and require work, but they are an incredible gift!

## What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

"Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so..." I do not remember when I learned this song, but I imagine I learned about Jesus' love for me early in life. The crazy thing is that I am still learning how Jesus loves me and how it impacts my life. His love is personal, immense, and challenging. Every day is an opportunity to encounter His love and grow in friendship with Him.

## How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

In addition to visiting various jubilee sites in Rome, I also did two longer walking pilgrimages to celebrate the Jubilee Year. The first was in the footsteps of St. Francis de Sales in France and the second was following the life of Bl. James Miller here in Wisconsin. Pilgrimages remind us that we are all on a journey, that our journey has destination, and that destination is heaven! Both in life and on pilgrimage, there are real challenges, but if we walk with Jesus, there is always a reason to hope!

## What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

Romans 8:15 says, "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship, through which we cry, 'Abba, Father!'" No one wants to be a slave or be afraid. Yet, Paul recognizes that there are times when we are afraid and do things we do not want to do: "I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate" (Rom 7:15). We can all relate to this struggle with sin, but God has given us

the Holy Spirit! Through baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are set free from this slavery to sin so that we can "walk in newness of life" (Rom 6:4). Not only are we able to overcome sin, but we become God's adopted sons and daughters. This is an incredible gift to ponder! We can call God "Father!" When we trust that God is a good Father and we keep running back to Him, we can become truly free from fear!

## Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

On the road to Damascus, something happens to St. Paul: he encounters Jesus. After zealously pursuing the Jewish law and persecuting Christians, Paul's zeal is reoriented toward Jesus. He then goes to Arabia, the place where Moses and Elijah encountered God on Mount Sinai, perhaps to pray about this meeting with Jesus. I share this because I believe this encounter and prayer is the foundation of Paul's zeal for the Gospel. His incredible zeal comes from a real conviction that Jesus is the savior. He is so convicted of this truth that he desires to spread it to the whole world. He says in Romans 1:16, "I am not ashamed of the gospel: it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith." Paul believes that the Gospel really does have power to transform lives. He desires everyone else to encounter the same love of Christ that he experienced. Because of his zeal, he willingly endures "afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments...hunger" (2 Cor 6:4-5) and yet he rejoices in his weakness because God's "power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor 12:9). He is so zealous for the Gospel that no trial or weakness can take away his hope. When I think about my own life, I desire that same zeal for the Gospel rooted in a deep relationship with Jesus. I hope to persevere willingly through any trial, trusting as Paul does that God will always provide.

## Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. Therese of Lisieux.** Please pray that I might have a priestly heart that is missionary!



# MICHAEL JANCZAKOWSKI

## Seminary

St. Francis de Sales Seminary  
3257 S. Lake Drive  
St. Francis, WI 53235-3702

## Year

Configuration II

## Birthday

June 18

## Parish

St. John the Baptist Parish,  
Howard

## Contact

mjanczakowski@aol.com

## What is the best type of ice cream?

Mackinac Island Fudge. I had it once, and it was delicious.

## What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

There is a rocky prominence in the Santa Catalina Mountains outside of Tucson called Finger Rock. I have twice summited the rock next to it ("the Guard"), and it is cool to look at it and think, "I've been there."

## What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

My earliest memory of engaging the faith was reading a Children's Bible when I was young. It was one of those cardboard books. I especially liked the stories about Noah and Samson. Later, my first memory of encountering Jesus was around age 10 when my family happened upon *The Passion of the Christ* on TV. It occurred to me that Jesus was real and not just a character in a story.

## How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

I made a pilgrimage to Rome with my aunt in March. We passed through the Holy Doors at each of the four papal basilicas, and we also went to Assisi. I had a particularly graced time in Assisi including confession, Mass before the San Damiano cross, and time to pray with the saints who are there. We even saw Francis and Clare's habits which are preserved at St. Clare Basilica. Seeing the traces of their lives helped spark hope in my own journey towards heaven.

## What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

Romans 12:9-21 is a passage to which I like to return. It is such a direct and succinct portrait of what our life is supposed to look like as Christians. "Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good." "Anticipate one another in showing honor." "Do not repay evil for evil ... Conquer evil with good."

I am especially drawn to Verse 16, "Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation." This line makes me think of the many people I have met in

my life: some are polished, others are messy; some you agree with, others you don't. All of them have been a gift to me in some way, and it takes humility to unpack that gift. It takes a willingness to admit that I am kind of a mess too, and that indeed the Lord is working through each of these people to fashion me as He desires.

## Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

When I read St. Paul, I am struck by his boldness. He possessed such a willingness to proclaim the Gospel at all costs, enduring every sort of trial and persecution (2 Cor 11:22-29). This character trait, of course, followed him from his earliest days (Gal 1:14) and sometimes brought him into conflict with his Christian brothers (Gal 2:11-14). Boldness was a core element of Paul's personality, and if not for his exercise of it, the Gospel would not have spread as far as it did.

There is a certain irony here insofar as St. Paul's original namesake, King Saul, was critically flawed by timidity. We read in 1 Samuel that Saul was an obvious choice for king: he was handsome, strong, and came from a powerful family (9:1-2). Yet at the time of his anointing, he was found "hiding among the baggage" (10:22), and later in his life, jealousy fueled his hatred for David and led to his own demise (18:6-9). We do indeed value meekness as a virtue, but the Scriptures point out that Saul was not so much meek as timid. When the people needed him to be strong, Saul was lacking in confidence.

St. Paul shows no such reservation. His interpersonal conduct was humble (2 Cor 10:1; Acts 18:3), but he never held back in proclaiming the truth and doing so directly if needed. He said what he thought and did what he said. Would that I had the same integrity and courage.

## Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. Carlo Acutis.** He had an authentic love of the Lord and true devotion and piety.



# OLIVIER NDORIMANA

## Seminary

St. Francis de Sales Seminary  
3257 S. Lake Drive  
St. Francis, WI 53235-3702

## Year

Configuration II

## Birthday

November 6

## Parish

St. Raphael Parish,  
Oshkosh

## Contact

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## What is the best type of ice cream?

Though I do not have strong opinions about ice cream, you can never go wrong with custard because it has a richer texture than other types of ice cream.

## What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

When I started the Kairos Year in 2021, we played ping pong regularly. I was a beginner while Rob Reynebeau was quite experienced. I lost many games and never thought I would win a single game against him. Needless to say, it was a great accomplishment when I won against him.

## What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

When I was a young child, I remember overhearing my mom praying the Rosary. As she said, "Holy Mary, Mother of God...", I remember wondering how it was that God had a mother. I do not remember if I asked my mom to explain it to me, but later, I made the connection that Jesus is God made man and thus has a mother.

## How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

At the beginning of this year, I was privileged to participate in the Opening Ceremony of the Jubilee Year in our diocese. Additionally, I was able to read and reflect on the Bull of Indiction that our late Pope Francis wrote when he proclaimed the Jubilee Year. Finally, at the end of the summer, my Green Bay seminarian brothers and I did a walking pilgrimage to Our Lady of Champion during which I had the intention of receiving the indulgences of the Jubilee Year since the Shrine is one of the designated places of pilgrimage for the Jubilee Year in our diocese.

## What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

In his letter to the Galatians, St. Paul writes, "I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life that I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal 2:20). I love this verse because in one short sentence, it summarizes very well what the Christian life is about: Christ's love and our response. It

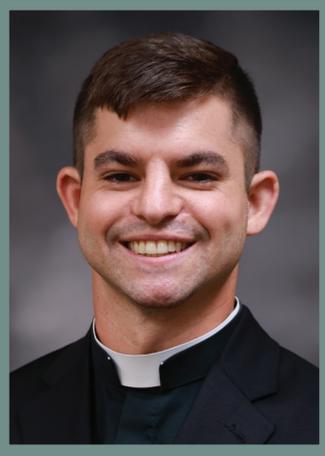
emphasizes how Jesus loves and died for each one of us personally, not just for all anonymously. We can and ought to say with St. Paul that Christ "loved me and gave Himself for me." Additionally, this verse makes it clear what our response to Christ ought to be. It is personal, just like Christ's love is personal and it involves us giving our entire selves to Christ, just like He gave Himself up for us on the Cross and gives Himself to us in the Eucharist.

## Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

All the saints were animated by great charity which took a different shape in the life of each saint. For St. Paul, the greatness of his charity was manifested in his zeal to proclaim the Gospel of Christ and to bring others to Christ so that they can be saved. Because of this loving zeal, St. Paul endured many hardships as he recounts in 2 Corinthians 11. Through all these hardships, he was totally given over to Christ and for the salvation of others. You get the sense of his complete gift of self when he says to the Corinthians, "I will most gladly spend myself and be spent for your souls" (2 Cor 12:15) and to the Philippians, "Even if I am poured out as a libation upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all" (Phil 2:17). Like St. Paul, I hope and strive to be given over entirely to Christ and His Gospel for the salvation of others. I strive to let the desire to live and proclaim the Gospel so fill me that I can be like St. Paul who said, "Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel" (1 Cor 9:16). I am drawn to the single-mindedness of being dedicated to the Gospel that St. Paul exemplified.

## Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. John Vianney.** Please ask his intercession to help me grow in my zeal to dedicate my life to the salvation of souls.



# ROBERT REYNEBEAU

## Seminary

St. Francis de Sales Seminary  
3257 S. Lake Drive  
St. Francis, WI 53235-3702

## Year

Configuration II

## Birthday

September 5

## Parish

St. John Nepomucene  
Parish, Little Chute

## Contact

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## What is the best type of ice cream?

At the risk of being wildly specific, go to Dairy Cove in Cecil (open May-September) and order the Peanut Butter Blast. You can thank me later!

## What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

Well, this past summer while studying in the Dominican Republic, I successfully took my classmates on a day trip to Santo Domingo, the country's capital, which meant navigating the chaotic Dominican traffic and all its motorcycles. My guardian angel actually takes partial credit for working overtime to keep us safe!

## What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

I remember when I was two years old being shocked to learn that Jesus is consubstantial with the Father...just kidding! I believe the first thing I learned about Jesus is that He loves me and that He was born for us in a humble little stable to Mary and Joseph, which is why we celebrate Christmas.

## How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

One way I celebrated the Jubilee Year is by making a simple pilgrimage to each of the official pilgrimage sites in our diocese. Another way I celebrated the Jubilee Year was by making a pilgrimage to Rome. It was a blessing to pass through the Holy Doors at each of the four major basilicas. Spending quiet time in prayer in these churches, I pondered more deeply the words of St. Paul, "Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (Romans 5:5).

## What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." I love this verse because it is theologically rich, and it summarizes the goal of the Christian life. Yes, I still live the life that God has given me, but hopefully there occurs a gradual

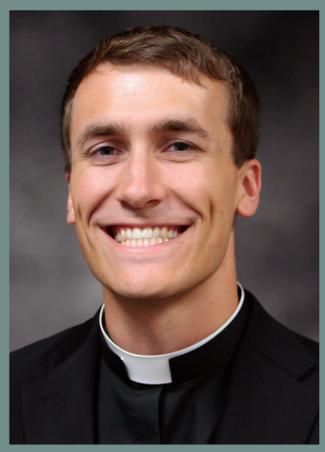
transformation in my heart whereby Jesus is given more and more access to work in me. Of course, this is possible through God's grace and by staying close to the sacraments. Jesus Himself told us to take up our cross and follow Him, and by doing so we become more like Him and begin to love others as He loves us: in a sacrificial way. It also reminds me of that great proclamation from John the Baptist, "He must increase; I must decrease" (Jn 3:30).

## Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

It would have to be charity or love. Clearly, St. Paul grew to love God above all else. He had so much love in his heart for Christ that he was willing to suffer anything for the sake of the Gospel. He no longer had any regard for worldliness; he only preached Jesus crucified (1 Cor 2:2). It was the love of Christ which urged him on to proclaim the Gospel (2 Cor 5:14). I look at his letter to the Philippians, which he wrote while imprisoned in Rome, and reading it more carefully, I see how much of a link there is for St. Paul between suffering and love. He was not bothered by his imprisonment because it served to advance the Gospel: "My imprisonment is for Christ, and most of the brethren...are much more bold to speak the word of God without fear" (Phil 1:12-14). Then there is the famous section on the way of love from 1 Corinthians 13, which many of us have heard at countless wedding Masses: "Love is patient, love is kind...love never fails...faith, hope, and love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love." I aspire to this virtue so strongly exemplified by St. Paul because love is what will make ministry fruitful.

## Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. John Vianney.** He is a model for priests, and much of his priestly ministry was spent administering God's mercy through the healing sacrament of confession.



# KYLE ROHAN

## Seminary

Pontifical North American College  
00120 Vatican City State, Europe

## Mailing Address:

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Greenleaf, WI 54126

## Year

Configuration II

## Parish

St. Clare Parish;  
Wrightstown, Greenleaf,  
and Askeaton

## Birthday

July 25

## Contact

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### What is the best type of ice cream?

Mint chocolate chip. It tastes great and my teeth even feel clean afterwards!

### What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

It could quite possibly be beating my fellow Green Bay seminarians, particularly Rob Reynebeau, in cribbage.

### What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

"Jesus loves me, this I know..." What powerful words these are, to declare the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for me and for every person in a unique and particular way. The phrase is childlike (and Jesus praises the childlike), and it is exactly what He desires me to believe, experience, and live out. Thank you, Mom and Dad, for teaching me this truth!

### How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

Thanks be to God that I have been blessed to celebrate this Jubilee Year in the Eternal City and experience the great hope that we have in Jesus Christ and His Church. With many pilgrims coming from around the world to visit the heart of the Church in Rome this year (including many from our diocese!), I have also been striving to live in that context of pilgrimage. The entire Christian life is a pilgrimage and living that reality in my little visits to various holy sites during this year has been especially grace-filled.

### What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

A favorite is 2 Corinthians 12:9: "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'" In the context of this verse, St. Paul is telling the Corinthians of the "thorn in the flesh" given him by God to prevent him from becoming prideful. In his supplications to the Lord to remove this temptation, Jesus spoke those words.

I love it because this, the Christian worldview, turns the secular worldview on its head. While the world prefers power (and money, autonomy, and impurity), the Christian

prefers humility (and poverty, obedience, and chastity). This is only true because our Lord Himself prefers these very things, evidenced in the Incarnation.

The Christian life is a response to God's unceasing efforts to draw us to Himself, something that is possible only if we allow Him to do so. It is precisely in our weaknesses and moments of poverty that God facilitates for us intimate encounters with Himself, if only we have the eyes to see and the ears to hear.

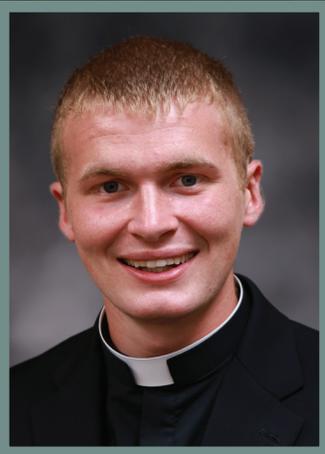
### Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

I often reflect on the virtue of humility which shines through in the writings of St. Paul. As I get to know the saints more, it seems to me that the virtue of humility, while perhaps difficult to cultivate, is truly the bedrock for the other virtues and in particular, the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity. Why would that be? I think it is because as the Servant of God, Fr. Walter Ciszek, S.J. said, "Humility is nothing more or less than knowing our place before God." With humility we can see simultaneously our great dignity as sons and daughters of God along with the fact that we "are dust and to dust you shall return" (Gen 3:19). In this truth, an intimate relationship is possible because we know the truth about reality – that we have a Father who loves us infinitely; we have a friend and savior in Jesus; we have an advocate and guide in the Holy Spirit; and we are none of these Three!

One can find all over St. Paul's writings his humility which lays the foundation for his holy life, a lifestyle of love, joy, and freedom to aspire to. More importantly, I aspire to this virtue because I desire to be conformed entirely to Christ Himself who says, "... learn from me; for I am meek and humble of heart..." (Mt 11:29).

### Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. Peter.** Alongside St. Paul, he is a pillar of our faith and our Church. Please pray that I may have a priestly heart and a zeal for souls like him.



# NICHOLAS HUZA

## Seminary

St. Francis de Sales Seminary  
3257 S. Lake Drive  
St. Francis, WI 53235-3702

## Year

Configuration I

## Birthday

October 10

## Parish

St. Mary of the Immaculate  
Conception Parish,  
Greenville

## Contact

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## What is the best type of ice cream?

No explanation is needed to describe why "Moose Tracks" is, objectively, the greatest type of ice cream.

## What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

This year, I graduated from college seminary, which marked a big milestone, both for life and in my formation to the priesthood. It represented many graces and challenges that, through God's grace, were overcome.

## What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

Thinking back to the earliest memories about Jesus I have, the first thing I was taught about Jesus, but honestly the one that has taken the most time to really learn and let sink in, has been the basic truth that "Jesus loves you." I have very distinct memories of being taught the song "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know" as a small child.

## How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

This year has offered many opportunities to reflect on and grow in hope. Besides the opening of the Jubilee Year in the Diocese of Green Bay, the Church has given us many opportunities to gain an indulgence, under the usual conditions, by making a pilgrimage to the three pilgrimage sites in the diocese, particularly the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. Thus, the only real way I have particularly celebrated the Jubilee Year has been by going to the Shrine and receiving Holy Communion after going to confession.

## What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

In St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 12, he describes having a thorn in the flesh to keep him humble. When he asks the Lord to remove it for him, our Lord Himself tells him that "my power is made perfect in weakness." Often we encounter difficulties, desolation, failures, and weaknesses in our lives, and we think that it is an obstacle to God working in our lives or even loving us. But it is quite the opposite. God loves us always and always works in our lives, especially in our weakness. We sometimes hate our weakness and our humanity, but

God Himself loved our weakness and humanity so much that He took it on for our sake. It helps remind me that the difficulties that I may encounter can and will be a vehicle for God to further work in my life and grow closer to Christ crucified.

## Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

The Christian life is markedly different through the God-given gifts of faith, hope, and love. St. Paul excellently exemplified what it meant to live those virtues. Throughout his many travels, he encountered many difficulties, but whether he was beaten, shipwrecked or left for dead, he never ceased to spread the Gospel (2 Corinthians 11: 24-26). Whether the people he preached to quickly accepted the Gospel (1 Thessalonians 1:2-10) and were willing to seriously commit themselves to Christ and His Church, or whether his preaching seemed to fall on deaf ears (Acts 17:32), it never stopped his preaching. Everything he did was out of love for Christ, and a burning love to fearlessly bring everyone he met to Christ. He hoped that the Lord would act even if he never saw the fruit. The truth is that, in life, especially the life of a priest, one who preaches, sanctifies, and governs will encounter many difficulties often from the very people he is called to serve. I hope that in imitating the theological virtues like St. Paul, I may be abandoned to the will of the Father and recognize all the good that comes as coming from God as a gift, and trusting that with faith, hope, and love, I might bring many souls to God.

## Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. Bede the Venerable.** Though he is obscure, he is a Doctor of the Church. He lived his monastic life as a gift to God and his Brothers.



# JOHN SPARKS

## Seminary

St. Francis de Sales Seminary  
3257 S. Lake Drive  
St. Francis, WI 53235-3702

## Year

Configuration I

## Birthday

September 11

## Parish

St. Agnes Parish,  
Green Bay

## Contact

sparje11@gmail.com

## What is the best type of ice cream?

If we are talking flavor, vanilla for its versatility. But if we are talking style of ice cream, it would have to be frozen custard. Smooth and delicious.

## What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

My greatest personal victory would probably be my weight loss. At one point, I lost almost one hundred pounds within a couple of years. It showed the level of discipline I was able to have, and it still inspires me when I think I may not be able to do something.

## What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

Growing up Catholic from birth, it can be pretty difficult to remember what the first thing you learned about Jesus was. As a kid, Christmas is a pretty big deal, so the first thing I most likely learned was that Jesus was born on Christmas and that was why we gave each other presents.

## How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

This has been a particularly blessed year. Being a Jubilee Year, we all have the opportunity to pilgrimage to the Shrine in Champion, St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, or St. Pius X in Appleton in order to obtain a plenary indulgence for ourselves or another person every day. I have been specially blessed to pilgrimage to Rome. Pope Francis designated the four major basilicas of Rome as the pilgrimage sites for the city and the world. Taking the prayers of family and people in parishes back home along with me was a truly moving experience.

## What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

There are obviously many wonderful quotes from St. Paul's writing since, of course, they are Scripture. However, there has been one quote that has meant a great deal to me lately. In 1 Corinthians 1:24, Paul writes, "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh, I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church." Paul is speaking about redemptive suffering, suffering for

the sake of others, suffering the way Jesus suffered for us. When we participate in this suffering, it is a blessing because we become more Christ-like. This is also a reminder to me that in every difficulty I have, Jesus is right there with me. There is nothing I go through alone, because He is always at my side. It also reminds me that if I offer it up for the good of others, my suffering will never be meaningless.

## Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

Whenever I think of St. Paul, the one virtue that always stands out to me is his fortitude. Fortitude can be thought of as another word for courage. It is the virtue that allows us to overcome our fears and continue in our following Christ no matter the obstacles lying before us. In 2 Corinthians 11, St. Paul describes many of the trials he bore while trying to spread the Gospel. He was whipped with 39 lashes five times, beaten with rods, shipwrecked three times, and in constant danger from robbers, hunger, and exposure to the elements. Even when he visited the town of Lystra, he was stoned to the point that people thought he was dead and left him outside of the city walls. Afterwards, Paul got back up and walked back into the town! These ordeals make the excuses I have heard, and even used myself in the past, for not going to Mass on Sundays, pale in comparison. The courage it takes to experience the trials of St. Paul and continue on his mission, I believe, is a courage that can only come from a deep and abiding relationship with God. If I truly believe in God and have a personal relationship with Him, there should be nothing that keeps me from Him. This is where I hope to be, now and forever.

## Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. Anthony of Padua.** He has been instrumental in my coming back to the faith and my discernment to the priesthood. Not to mention, he has interceded in helping me to find lost objects.



# NICHOLAS KLIKA

## Seminary

Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary  
700 Terrace Heights  
Box #587  
Winona, MN 55987-1320

## Year

Discipleship IV

## Parish

St. Bernard Parish,  
Green Bay

## Birthday

December 30

## Contact

nickgklika@gmail.com

## What is the best type of ice cream?

Like John the Baptist, I will be a voice crying out in the wilderness that custard is superior to ice cream as it is richer, more dense, and overall creamier.

## What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

It is said that making fun of yourself takes that fun away from others, so my answer is learning to cook. At one point in formation, I needed help making scrambled eggs. Now I love to grill and consider hospitality, specifically cooking for others, to be one of my charisms.

## What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

Presumably, while preparing me for baptism shortly after being born, my parents would have taught me that Jesus loves me and were so excited for me to be baptized into His family as His beloved son. While a very simple sentiment, it remains the greatest thing I know about Jesus to this day.

## How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

It was a special honor to begin this Jubilee Year in January by serving for Bishop Ricken at the Cathedral as he celebrated his Jubilee Mass, 25 years after being ordained a bishop by St. Pope John Paul II. Another meaningful way I celebrated was by completing the Walk to Mary in May, something I have done for many years. This year felt especially grace filled, with the Shrine designated as an official pilgrimage site. Along the way, Our Lady reminded me, again and again, of the deep hope I have in her Son's infinite and merciful love.

## What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

In Chapter 8 of Paul's Letter to the Romans, Paul is pleading with the church in Rome to live in the Spirit of God rather than living according to the flesh. For context, Paul had just warned earlier, in Chapter 7, about the interior conflict between good and evil and how "I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate" (Rom 7:15). How often have you and I found ourselves in this very situation of knowing the life of virtue we want to pursue,

and yet continuing to give in to the temptations that plague our good and holy desires? This is where Paul's words fill me with the most hope. "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Rom 8:18). It is always in the hope of the glory of the future resurrection that we are saved from our own futility and spurred on by the promise of an unimaginable inheritance.

## Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

In the Gospels, Matthew talks about knowing a tree by its fruits. Looking at the life and ministry of St. Paul, the fruits are abundant as Paul planted and cultivated the seeds of virtue in his life. While reflecting on the many virtues that St. Paul possessed, I feel drawn to so many of them. Fortitude in preaching the Gospel even to those who actively sought to kill him, prudence in how he went about sharing the truth in love, humility in knowing that everything he did must be for the greater glory of God, etc. However, there is one virtue that ties all of the others together, one that if gone without, all other virtues cease to exist, and that virtue is love. Chapter 13 of Paul's Letter to the Corinthians is one we are all probably familiar with if we have ever attended a wedding, as it is Paul's exhortation on the way of love. What Paul is expounding upon is that love is the one virtue that gives life to all others. One can have the gift of prophecy, or faith that can move mountains or even be faced with martyrdom. However, if they lack love, they will cease to prophecy, mountains will stay where they are, and they will even renounce their faith altogether at the prospect of losing their lives. "So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love" (1 Cor 13:13). If I have love, I have all.

## Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. Paul.** Please pray that I too may desire to know nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified and to follow Him unreservedly wherever He leads me.



# MATTHEW SCHUMACHER

## Seminary

St. John Vianney College Seminary  
2115 Summit Avenue  
Mail #5024  
St. Paul, MN 55105-1048

## Year

Discipleship IV

## Birthday

February 11

## Parish

St. Matthew Parish,  
Allouez

## Contact

schu8138@stthomas.edu

## What is the best type of ice cream?

Chocolate is the best flavor of ice cream because it is a simple flavor that is not overpowering, yet it never fails to satisfy your sweet tooth.

## What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

When I was about ten years old, I won a goldfish named Jim from the Brown County Fair and somehow managed to keep it alive for five plus years. The average lifespan of previous goldfish was one to two weeks.

## What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

It is difficult to remember a time when I did not know something about Jesus. The first thing I recall learning about Him, however, was that He is someone who loves us very much and is someone whom we should love very much. I also remember playing a shepherd in our pre-school Christmas play which taught me that shepherds came to His birthday.

## How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

I have celebrated by going to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion several times as it is one of the official pilgrimage sites of the Jubilee Year. Because the Shrine is so close, it is easy to take for granted. It is always a humbling experience to meet people who have traveled across the world to visit the Shrine while for us it is right in our backyard! What better way to grow in hope than to spend time resting in the arms of Our Lady?

## What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

Lately, 2 Corinthians 3:18 has struck me: "All of us, gazing with unveiled faces on the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, as from the Lord who is the Spirit." Every heart desires union and intimacy with God. When we look for this fulfillment in the wrong places and are ultimately left unsatisfied, the question remains: How do we grow closer to Him? How do we attain this union our hearts long for? St. Paul essentially answers, "Look at Jesus and let Him transform you." When we "gaze with unveiled

faces," we are looking at God without a facade. If we go outside on a sunny day with bare faces, we are bound to get tan (or sunburned). How much more will we be transformed into the very image of Jesus when we gaze upon Him and let Him gaze upon us without hiding our wounds or weaknesses? St. Paul's advice to us is simple: Keep your eyes on Him and all will be well.

## Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

St. Paul exemplifies the virtue of gratitude in a remarkable way which I hope to imitate. In his First Letter to the Thessalonians, he commands them to "give thanks in all circumstances," which seems like an unfair demand. Life is full of painful experiences, so how is it right to be grateful in those difficult times? St. Paul (who is very well acquainted with suffering) says it is fitting because God is still loving him perfectly, holding nothing back in every circumstance. If there were a different set of circumstances in which God could love him more, He would do it! This applies to us just as much as St. Paul. In any given moment, the Lord is pouring Himself out to us without reserve. That means that nothing can change how loved we are, and nothing can take away our identity as beloved sons and daughters of the Father. We deserve 0% of this love, yet He freely gives 100% of it. Gratitude is always a fitting response to such a gift. This gratitude is the gateway to St. Paul's constant joy. God's love is the most real thing there is and receiving that love is a cause for joy. In the high and low moments of life, we can still choose peace and joy because the infinite God of the universe is loving us perfectly.

## Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. Therese of Lisieux.** She lived her life with eyes fixed on the Lord and allowed Him to transform her into His image.



# BENEDICT WOOD

## Seminary

St. John Vianney College Seminary  
2115 Summit Avenue  
Mail #5024  
St. Paul, MN 55105-1048

## Year

Discipleship IV

## Parish

St. Thomas More Parish,  
Appleton

## Birthday

January 10

## Contact

wood9936@stthomas.edu

### What is the best type of ice cream?

I love plain vanilla; it is classic, refreshing, and perfect for a hot summer day.

### What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

Before entering seminary, I was studying musical theatre, and the last show I was in, I was cast as the leading man. It was a hard role, but thanks to excellent directing, the show was fantastic, and I look back on it fondly.

### What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

When I was young, I often said with childlike joy, "Jesus died... then ROSE again." This is the first thing I learned about Jesus: that He entered into the doors of death but rose again to bring us new life. This basic Gospel message is something I strive to keep in mind throughout my life so that I can live in the spirit of joy Christians are called to embrace through the Resurrection.

### How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

I have made several visits to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. This apparition site has a special place in my heart reminding me to place my hope not in earthly things but in the heavenly realities they remind us of. This coming semester, I will have the opportunity to study abroad in Rome, and I hope to visit the pilgrimage sites there. My prayer is that by embracing the Jubilee Year at both the local and global levels, the Lord will inspire in me a deeper appreciation for the unity in diversity that is the Church.

### What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

Colossians 3:1-4: "If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, your life, appears, then you too will appear with him in glory."

This verse reminds me that the Christian life is one of pilgrimage. We live on earth, but with our eyes fixed

on heaven. As St. Peter tells us, we are strangers and sojourners on this earth as we journey toward the heavenly city. In this quotation from St. Paul, however, he reminds us that this pilgrimage is not just a journey of expectation. We live in the Kingdom of God now even as we await its fulfillment when we see Christ face to face. By keeping our eyes fixed on what is above, we can experience heaven on earth.

### Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

St. Paul commends us to think of what is above, and in that, I think he exemplified the virtue of hope. His eyes were constantly fixed on Christ and his Kingdom which is what empowered him to live the life he did. In the midst of St. Paul's struggles: rejection, capture, shipwrecks, stonings, and many more, he was at peace. This peace was not the result of gritting his teeth to just get through it all, but instead the natural result of having his hope placed fully in the Kingdom of God. Wealth, power, honor, and pleasure all lost their allure for Paul because he understood that the Kingdom of God was being offered to him. This world and all the good things in it were meant to direct his gaze upwards so he could see God through them.

I aspire to imitate this virtue. The more I continue on in my seminary journey, the more I find areas of my life that are not given over totally to Jesus. As I continue along in my studies, I wish to follow St. Paul's example and cast my gaze upward, allowing my eyes to be fixed on Christ at all times and in all things that I do. I wish for my prayer, work, academic studies, and leisure to all be united in one singular quest to seek the realms that are above and grow closer to Christ.

### Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. Bonaventure.** This great saint integrated his spiritual and intellectual lives, understanding that in coming to know Truth, he was coming to know Christ. I desire to imitate this virtue.



# DAVID MARTENS

## Seminary

Conception Seminary College  
PO Box 502  
Conception, MO 64433-0502

## Year

Discipleship III

## Birthday

October 13

## Parish

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral,  
Green Bay

## Contact

dmartens@conception.edu

### What is the best type of ice cream?

Vanilla ice cream is the best, plain and simple. It has a good combination of sweet, rich, and creamy, but not overbearing. Additionally, you can add any toppings you desire.

### What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

Academically, I have always been at the top of my class. In high school, I was home-schooled and thus graduated at the top of my class. Yet this past year I received an award for academic excellence among my class proving high school was not a fluke.

### What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

The first thing I learned about Jesus is that He loves me. He loves me enough to die on the cross for me, to give Himself to me as food in the Eucharist, and even give me His own mother. My parents worked hard to point that out to me during the Mass and visits to the church and continue to do the same for my brothers and sisters.

### How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

During my spring break, some friends and I took a road trip to Washington, D.C. to visit Fr. Kyle Sladek and see some of the sites. On the trip back, we stopped in numerous cities to visit beautiful churches. We were able to stop and pray at a good number of Jubilee Year sites. During the many hours on the road, we had plenty of time to discuss seminary formation, our hopes for future ministry, and the signs of hope we see around us and in the Church at large.

### What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

Every Thursday evening, the Church meditates on 1 Thessalonians 5:23 during Night Prayer. During my first year of formation, my spiritual director would end our meeting with a blessing which included this verse. Typically, we would meet on Thursdays, so I would end the discussion of the Lord's movements in my life hearing this Pauline blessing, and then I would read it again that night to close the day. Often, we can be tempted to try

to do everything to make ourselves perfect in holiness, but at the end of the day, this verse reminds us that it is "the God of peace" who perfects us and preserves our lives. Each time I hear or read this verse, it speaks to me of the integrated nature of the human person and of the Church: spirit, soul, and body, looking forward to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

One of the first virtues that comes to mind when I think of St. Paul is fortitude. Fortitude proves the extent of our love and dedication to the Lord. The Lord seems to say, "Okay, I know you love me right now, but how deep does it go? Will you still love and trust me in the hardest of life's challenges?" Abraham, Job, St. Paul, Christ, and many others gave us examples of this fortitude through their tireless pursuit of the Lord. In 2 Corinthians 11, St. Paul famously recounts some of the major trials that he endured while spreading the message of the Gospel. Yet he simply mentions it to prove the authenticity of his call to preach; he uses it to point to how God has sustained him to continue upbuilding the young Church. St. Paul hardly seems to care that he survived all those afflictions; if anything, he is waiting for the next one. It is not hard to want to outlast everything that comes at me using my own strength, but to rely on the Lord for that strength is very challenging. It causes me to lose any control I think I might have and to leave the comfort of doing things myself. However, the result is a profound dedication to the Lord, which manifests itself in love for Him and those around me.

### Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. Peter.** He serves as a man who struggled mightily in his pursuit of the Lord yet was still called to sanctity through the priesthood.



# CONNOR QUICK

## Seminary

St. Francis de Sales Seminary  
3257 S. Lake Drive  
St. Francis, WI 53235-3702

## Year

Discipleship III

## Birthday

June 6

## Parish

St. Patrick Parish,  
Menasha

## Contact

connor.quick.17@gmail.com

### What is the best type of ice cream?

That would be coffee ice cream. It's all the joy of a good cup of coffee with the added enjoyment of a creamy frozen dessert.

### What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

I believe that my greatest personal victory has been my own growth in the confidence that I hear the Lord speaking to me.

### What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

The first thing that my parents tried to teach me about Jesus was that I was loved by Him. They knew, as well as many others, that despite the ease in which we say, "I know God loves me," we can often feel and act as if that's not true. But if we allow ourselves to be transformed by His love, we have everything.

### How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

Something very exciting to celebrate the Jubilee Year was making a pilgrimage down to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Our Lady of Guadalupe has been a devotion of mine for about five years now since I made my first consecration on her feast day. What a gift it was to visit the site of the apparition as well as see St. Juan Diego's tilma right there in front of me. If this were not amazing enough, we even got to serve Mass at the main altar just feet below the tilma.

### What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

A verse from Paul that I've been reflecting on an awful lot as of late is that of Galatians 2:20: "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." In this verse, St. Paul powerfully articulates his dying to self and his taking on of Christ. I'm deeply moved by this image of putting away the old self, but also of Christ as that which "lives" in Paul's heart and soul. Christ tells us that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Consequently, to truly live is to allow ourselves to be changed and transformed by our encounter with the living person of Jesus. To allow Christ to live in us is to surrender our will, abandon ourselves

fully to His love and mercy, and embrace the new life He offers. This daily surrender is both a challenge and a profound gift.

### Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

The virtue which I most desire to emulate of the great St. Paul is that of his gratitude. It is a disposition which St. Paul embodies very frequently throughout his epistles. Often, he thanks God for the people that he is ministering to (Phil 1:3-4), for His own calling (1 Tim 1:12), and even for his weaknesses and sufferings (2 Cor 12:9-10). St. Paul's gratitude is remarkable because it persists even amid trials and challenges, showing how deeply rooted his faith and trust in God were.

In a book I read this last year by Dietrich Von Hildebrand, there was a quote that said, "The person... permeated... by [an] attitude of gratitude, is the only person who is truly awake." Gratitude is a recognition that every second of every moment of every day is a gift. It is this awareness that so permits a soul to be "awake" to all the gifts that God is showering upon it.

Further, a grateful soul is one that is joyful. Von Hildebrand suggests just the same when he asserts, "The essence of gratitude is joy." Indeed, gratitude opens the heart to receive God's blessings fully and helps overcome discouragement by focusing on the goodness already present in our lives. To cultivate gratitude like St. Paul is to cultivate a spirit of humility, dependence on God, and a joyful awakening to divine love.

### Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. Elizabeth of the Trinity.** Since she began "following" me last November, this Carmelite has transformed my prayer life and deepened my experience of God's abundant love.



# LOGAN SHALLOW

## Seminary

Conception Seminary College  
PO Box 502  
Conception, MO 64433-0502

## Year

Discipleship III

## Birthday

June 5

## Parish

St. Anne Parish; Lena,  
Coleman

## Contact

loganshallow@yahoo.com

### What is the best type of ice cream?

Mint Oreo because mint is already an amazing flavor and then the Oreos come in and take it to the next level.

### What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

Attending college because it not only helped me to be able to grow in who I am and find my faith, but also to just have a great time and branch out more.

### What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

The first thing I learned about Jesus is that He loves me. It was a focus of my religious education instructors when I was young to instill a great knowledge that Jesus loves me above all no matter what. They wanted us to know that we could always turn to Jesus in any situation for help.

### How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

I participated in the Diocese Eucharistic Pilgrimage of Hope. Fr. Michael Thiel was the chaplain of the event in which he and other priests and deacons carried Jesus in Eucharistic procession to every Catholic church, school, and healthcare facility in the Fox Valley over the course of five days. It was a true blessing to be able to walk with Jesus for five straight days and to spend the better part of those days in Eucharistic Adoration. The pilgrimage ended at St. Pius X Parish in Appleton which is one of the diocese's Jubilee Year pilgrimage destinations as well.

### What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

"Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11). This is my favorite because St. Paul reminds me to always stay rooted in the Lord. He goes on to explain the different pieces of the armor of God. The different pieces of armor are given as truth, righteousness, readiness for the Gospel, faith, salvation, and the word of God. If we clothe ourselves in these things, St. Paul says that we will be able to resist the temptations of the devil. We will remain close with our Lord in His loving care. St. Paul's reminder to put on the armor of God helps us to

recognize all of the ways that the devil is trying to attack us, and he perfectly encompasses every type of attack the devil uses on us. By putting on the armor of God, we are more ready to fight the spiritual fight and grow as beloved sons and daughters of our Lord.

### Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

St. Paul displays such a beautiful witness to the virtue of courage in action. He shows the holy courage that has been instilled in him by the Holy Spirit. It drives him to bring the faith to the Gentiles of many different nations. Courage drives him to go to the absolute limits of everything that the Lord has planned for him regardless of the outcome. He is thrown into situations over and over again that could break a person's courage, but instead, he comes out of every one of these situations with a strong growth in that already strong virtue of courage. For example, he is beaten repeatedly by the people he is ministering to, stoned, thrown in prison, etc. Nothing matters to him besides completing and living by the will of God. At the end of the day, St. Paul is able to sit down and know that regardless of how the people his ministry affected that day reacted to him, that he is doing the will of God. I aspire to grow in the virtue of courage to the point where I am able to commit to and perform the will of God, regardless of the response the people I'm ministering to at that moment may display.

### Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. Christopher.** He is the patron of travelers, and I feel as though he has been helping and guiding me to travel through life to grow in my faith.



# GABRIEL WALKER

## Seminary

St. Francis de Sales Seminary  
3257 S. Lake Drive  
St. Francis, WI 53235-3702

## Year

Discipleship III

## Birthday

January 1

## Parish

SS. Edward & Isidore  
Parish, Flintville

## Contact

gtwalker55.gw@gmail.com

## What is the best type of ice cream?

As a former ice cream scooper at an ice cream shop, I believe cookies and cream with peanut butter never disappoints.

## What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

The greatest personal victory of my life is that I finally built up the courage to say “yes” to the persistent calling of our Lord to enter seminary. I failed to say a full “yes” after my senior year of high school, but now the “yes” is loud and proud.

## What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

Jesus is AWESOME and he loves me! From a young age, I had family members who showed me the importance of a relationship with Jesus Christ. During morning and night prayer as a child, my family always finished prayer by saying “I love Jesus,” as well as asking Him to teach me to love others just like Him.

## How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

In June 2025, I was blessed with the gift to go on pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City with the other Kairos men and Fr. Kevin Ripley. Over the Kairos Year, I came to have a greater devotion to Our Mother. During the pilgrimage, Our Lady showed me how she has been with me throughout my life, leading me to enter seminary. After this experience, I was filled with great hope for what the Lord has in store for me in the future as a seminarian and, God-willing, a priest.

## What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

2 Corinthians 12:9: “I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”

Over the last year, “boasting of our weaknesses” has stood out to me. In modern culture, rejoicing in our weakness is not common as we tend to hide our weakness and instead boast about our strengths. St. Paul shows us the example of how God works in our weakness. In

our weakness, we open a place for God to help us to become a better version of ourselves. St. Paul accepted his weakness amidst mistreatment and persecution to glorify God. In today's culture, we face the same problem St. Paul faced. We are challenged with the opportunity to invite Christ into the different mistreatment or stress of our daily lives. St. Paul has challenged me to look to him and Christ as an example of how I should boast in my weaknesses.

## Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

When I think about a virtue exemplified by St. Paul, he demonstrates humility throughout his journey. St. Paul showed humility when he had his conversion from persecuting Christians to being the one persecuted for Christ. He said in 2 Corinthians 12:10, “For whenever I am weak, then I am strong,” because he knew the Lord would give him the strength to endure what was in front of him. I find this to be a beautiful example to strive to emulate in my life as I struggle at times to accept my weakness when I think I need to be strong. God continues to show me that it is okay to be weak in order to have strength in Him. St. Paul sees suffering as an opportunity to glorify God and unite ourselves to Christ on the cross. The humility of St. Paul is shown in his mission as an athlete to win the race for Christ. He humbled himself to become all things to all people so he could win them for Christ. Growing up playing sports, I have seen that St. Paul's leadership as a servant shepherd can be effective to bring a team together. I want to attain the virtue of humility as a servant shepherd, just as St. Paul put humility into action in every aspect of his ministry in the Church. St. Paul, pray for us!

## Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. Teresa of Calcutta.** She lived through simplicity for our Lord – pray for me that I may attain the meek and humble heart she longed for from Christ.



# CHARLES MATERNOSKI

## Seminary

Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary  
700 Terrace Heights  
Box #1296  
Winona, MN 55987-1320

## Year

Discipleship II

## Birthday

December 20

## Parish

SS. Edward & Isidore  
Parish, Flintville

## Contact

cxmate25@smumn.edu

## What is the best type of ice cream?

Mackinac Island Fudge is 100% the best ice cream flavor. It tastes better than all other flavors and comes from the best region in the United States! Midwest is best!

## What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

Saying yes to the prompting to reapproach the sacrament of confession in 2022 will forever be my greatest personal victory. Though I have overcome a lot of hardships in my life, none of those superseded rekindling my relationship with Our Lord through His merciful love.

## What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

Other than knowing His name, it was that Jesus is God, alongside the Father and the Holy Spirit. At the time, my brain was incapable of understanding the Trinity (and still is), but whether I cared or not, I always had a certain amount of certitude that Jesus is God. This is likely the case as the Sign of the Cross is the first prayer I learned.

## How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

In June, I had the blessing of making a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. This was one of the many ways I saw an increase in the virtue of hope within me as I recognized Mary's great love for me. Also, throughout the year, I had many opportunities to see the Church alive throughout not only the Diocese of Green Bay but throughout other parts of the United States, which greatly bolsters hope within, as the Church is thriving (not dying) throughout the United States!

## What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

2 Corinthians 12:9-10: "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

Paul's great sufferings as an apostle for Christ are inspiring to me, as he uses those places of weakness as moments of intimacy with Our Lord. As someone with medical issues providing a heavy cross, looking towards Paul and hearing those words of his which clearly go against what the world tells us to do provides great hope for me, despite my weakness in it. Paul speaking of persecutions inspires me as well. The world is not warm towards Jesus, but when Paul speaks of embracing the persecutions for the sake of Christ, it gives those persecutions a completely different meaning.

## Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

Paul exemplifies the virtue of prudence in a very unapologetic manner. He is not afraid of being brutally honest, but throughout his letters, that is also juxtaposed with prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude for the blessings God has given him. As the mother of all virtues, mastery of prudence is something to work towards. You can always have too much or too little of a certain virtue, but prudence helps you have just the right amount of said virtue. At Paul's time, he preached very strongly and honestly, which was needed to convert the many souls placed in his path. Today, we see a similar need for bold preaching, and the virtue of prudence can aid us in understanding when we need to preach in the bold, unapologetic manner that Paul did throughout his mission work. The world needs strong missionary disciples, and if we strive to live out the virtue of prudence as Paul did, open to the movements of the Holy Spirit, the Lord can work miracles!

## Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. Charles Borromeo.** Not only does he have a really great name, but he also is the patron of seminarians! As I approach this new stage of seminary, please seek his intercession in my studies and to keep my eyes forward on my ultimate vocation, which is love!



# NOAH VANDEN WYMELENBERG

## Seminary

Conception Seminary College  
PO Box 502  
Conception, MO 64433-0502

## Year

Discipleship II

## Birthday

August 18

## Parish

St. Clare Parish;  
Wrightstown,  
Greenleaf, and Askeaton

## Contact

njwymelenberg@gmail.com

## What is the best type of ice cream?

The best type of ice cream is mint chocolate chip because it tastes fresh with a smooth chocolate taste that does not overpower the mint flavor.

## What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

My greatest personal victory would be holing out from 87 yards playing golf and shooting my lowest round ever... a 78.

## What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

Jesus being the Son of God was the first thing I learned about Him and probably is one of the most important aspects of His identity. I can remember being in first grade at St. Clare Grade School during Christmas time and learning about the Nativity and that although Jesus was born to Mary and Joseph, he was truly the Son of God.

## How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

This Jubilee Year has been celebrated by discerning the priesthood with my seminarian brothers, praying for the Church and Pope Leo, and of course playing a lot of golf. I have found this Jubilee has instilled much gratitude in my heart for the Church we have, the tradition, saints, martyrs, and all the Church militant working diligently here on earth. There is nothing better or more fulfilling than following the will of God, especially in the context of vocations which has never been more prevalent than in this past year of discernment for myself.

## What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

1 Corinthians 13: 1-3 is my favorite verse of St. Paul's, and it speaks on the connection between our actions and the love that may or may not be at their center. I am a devout admirer of St. Therese and her "little way" of love, and I cannot help but connect these words of St. Paul's to her teaching that small acts of love can guide us to heaven and holiness. His words "... if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing" informs us that love is at the core of not just faith, but all

the other virtues necessary for holiness. St. Paul's witness of love was sacrificial not only in his conversion, but also in his martyrdom. He loved passionately and was willing to allow his love to guide his life, bringing him to Jesus, the Apostles, and sainthood.

## Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

St. Paul's fortitude is something I hope to replicate in my present life and in future ministry. The story of his conversion and his willingness to follow Christ, even amidst persecutions by his previous companions, shows his resilience and fortitude in the face of danger and uncertainty. The virtue of fortitude helps us in making decisions amidst difficult circumstances and can help us stand up for what we believe in. Seminary is full of hard decisions, and it can be easy to pick the easy ones instead of taking the hard road. I pray for fortitude along the path of discernment, knowing that it will not always be easy, but that following the will of God will ultimately lead to joy and fulfillment no matter how impossible it seems. Furthermore, St. Paul's conversion reminds me that I am called to conversion every day, seeking forgiveness for my sins and being born anew through the sacrament of confession. Conversion is never out of reach. It bears mentioning that his humility and compassion also stand out to me, and I believe he calls everyone to lead with these virtues despite the circumstances. I strive to have humility and hope to spread this virtue by merit of my actions.

## Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. Augustine.** I admire his zeal for truth and humility found within his conversion. The painting of St. Augustine holding his flaming heart has inspired me over the years and ultimately led to my discernment of the priesthood.



# SAMUEL KURTH

## Seminary

Conception Seminary College  
PO Box 502  
Conception, MO 64433-0502

## Year

Discipleship I

## Birthday

September 28

## Parish

Our Lady of Lourdes  
Parish, De Pere

## Contact

crazymas2001@gmail.com

### What is the best type of ice cream?

Clearly the best type of ice cream is the free kind because...yeah.

### What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

My best personal victory was over the bad hair genes. Shaving the bad hair line away really showed it who's boss and is a freeing feeling.

### What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

The first thing that I learned about Jesus was that He was a dude from a very long time ago who asked much out of us. We need to go to church every Sunday, care for the poor, forgive the trespasses of others, love others as ourselves, and spread the Gospel to the edges of the world.

### How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

The most impactful celebration of this Jubilee Year came from the pilgrimage that was made to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City by me and the rest of last year's Kairos men. Our Lady has continued to be a powerful intercessor as I am on the path of holiness. It was a great opportunity to have a pilgrimage of gratitude for her help along the way and for continued hope that she will continue to help me pursue being more in union with her Son and His will for my life.

### What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

My favorite writing of St. Paul is 1 Corinthians 13. I always viewed it in the lens of being a cliché reading at every wedding ever. More recently, I have had a much different view on the chapter. The essence of the writing is what it means to be a Christian. Jesus told us that the greatest commandment is to love God and to love your neighbor. We also learned that laying down one's life is the greatest form of love. This explains the small, nitty-gritty ways of love in our everyday lives. Sometimes it can feel complicated to figure out how to love, as we are not always sure what it looks like. This is an instruction manual on how to love both in small and big ways. Lastly,

it emphasizes that nothing matters more than love and that anything done without love is worthless. This is a message that for myself is most important as I grow into a deeper relationship with our Lord.

### Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

The virtue I admire most about St. Paul is his perseverance. I find perseverance in another person to be very admirable because it shows the strength and determination that someone has for the goals he or she aspires to. St. Paul was invited by our Lord for a big mission with many obstacles. With the history that St. Paul had with Christians before his conversion, many of his obstacles came from within the Church. The distrust that he got from many Christians, which seemingly was well-warranted, put him in a spot of complete surrender to the Lord. The strength needed for the perseverance that St. Paul had did not come from himself, but from the Lord. This is very apparent during his ministry as he traveled. He was not welcomed in every place, to the point that he was persecuted. He was stoned and left for dead but was able to shake the dust off his cloak and move on to the next town. St. Paul is an inspiration and role model of his perseverance for me because he showed the fruits that come from not giving up. God-willing as a priest myself, there is nothing more important than loving in an unconditional way no matter the circumstances.

### Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. Joseph.** He is a saint that has a big impact on my vocation – a man of great virtue and an example of how it looks to follow and trust God completely.



# CALEB DELSMAN

**Holy Name of Jesus  
House of Formation**  
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Green Bay, WI 54301-2951

**Year**  
Kairos Year

**Parish**  
St. Clare Parish;  
Wrightstown, Greenleaf,  
Askeaton

**Birthday**  
October 7

**Contact**  
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## What is the best type of ice cream?

Vanilla is the best flavor, because I believe it is the most versatile. Vanilla goes with most desserts, while other flavors are limited.

## What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

In high school, I devoted all my extra time to achieving perfect grades. During my last three semesters of college, I established a healthy boundary for homework. I earned average grades above 90% and dedicated the extra time to service and leadership in my Catholic community on campus.

## What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

It is hard to remember what I first learned about Jesus, because I was taught about Him since birth. One fact that stands out is that Jesus chose twelve men to follow Him. One of the earliest memories I have from Catholic elementary school is a song about Jesus gathering His twelve apostles. The song was taught to me by my first-grade teacher. *"Peter, Andrew, James, and John left their nets to follow you..."*

## How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

I will be going on a short pilgrimage to Rome in November. During this time, I hope to become more aware of the spiritual richness of the Catholic Church by visiting places like St. Peter's Basilica, Assisi, and the tombs of saints. The Jubilee Year was traditionally a time when debts were canceled. The most important way I have celebrated has been taking more time in prayer to meditate on God's mercy. God cancels my debt of sin! As a result, I have felt more gratitude for God's gift of the sacrament of reconciliation.

## What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

1 Corinthians 9:22 says, "I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." This verse displays Paul's sacrifice of preference, schedule, and social status to share Christ's love. Paul is teaching Mother Church to evangelize. As Catholics, we should be all things to all people. We should relate to them in

everything but sin, for the sake of leading them to Christ. To live with this conviction, Paul must choose God in every moment. This verse has helped me reframe my daily life. This does not mean filling every minute with service. However, it has meant changing how I approach my routine. If I do anything without the intention of growing closer to God, I have wasted my time. For example, when I wake up or when I brush my teeth, am I open to what He is teaching me in that moment? I believe living in this way is how Paul receives conviction to love. He has found God and desires nothing more than to share Him.

## Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

The first virtue Paul uses to describe love is patience (1 Cor. 13:4). Patience is a moral virtue that allows a person to endure difficulty and suffering without giving in to despair. I often think of how patient God is with me. My sin causes Him so much suffering, but he gives His mercy unconditionally. Patience is a simple and very direct way to imitate my Creator. I aspire to the virtue of patience because it helps me embrace God's will. The moments when patience is most difficult, but I still choose patience, are the times when I am most actively participating in His divine life. When I am patient, I am most perfectly receiving God's gift of the present moment. When I am not patient, I reject His gift. I like to imagine my life as a large mixing bowl which represents my time here on earth. God adds ingredients to the bowl to craft the perfect recipe for my salvation. These ingredients include situations that are easy to receive and situations that I view as unfortunate. The more I exercise patience in unfortunate situations, the more I embrace His call to holiness. When reflecting on the times I was not patient, I imagine myself saying to God, "I do not believe you are providing the grace to endure this difficulty. I do not trust Your plan for my salvation. Therefore, I reject this reality and want a different one." I am most joyful when I am patient.

## Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. Ignatius of Loyola.** I strongly relate to his interior life and how he was drawn closer to God through a leg injury. I also admire Ignatius' desire for greatness and his spiritual exercises.



# EDWARD HEURING

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House of Formation**  
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Green Bay, WI 54301-2951

**Year**  
Kairos Year

**Parish**  
St. Pius X Parish,  
Appleton

**Birthday**  
June 18

**Contact**  
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## What is the best type of ice cream?

Vanilla! It may be considered the most “basic” flavor, but one cannot deny its timeless versatility and great taste.

## What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

My greatest personal victory is my decision to enter the Kairos Year. This was a very difficult decision that forced me to take a step outside of my comfort zone and surrender myself more fully to the Lord’s holy will, trusting that His plans are greater than mine.

## What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

The first and most foundational truth that I came to know about Jesus Christ is that He possesses a deep love for me. While to many this may seem like a simple concept, it is one that is tragically overlooked. He loves each created person infinitely. Despite all the joys and sorrows of this world, we have the consolation of knowing that we are always deeply loved by our Blessed Lord.

## How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

Admittedly, I entered this Jubilee Year with a very limited understanding of what a Jubilee Year truly entailed. However, as I have learned more about the tremendous beauty of this Holy Year, I have taken up several practices to celebrate this Jubilee of Hope. Firstly, I have sought to cultivate a deeper devotion to the sacraments of reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist to better prepare myself to receive every grace and heavenly blessing the Lord is seeking to bestow upon me. Also, I have made several pilgrimages to holy sites and have sought to practice works of mercy.

## What is your favorite verse from St. Paul’s writings?

2 Corinthians 12:9: “But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” In our fallen human state, we are all flawed and struggle in living the Christian life. Yet, it is precisely in this weakness that we are invited to completely rely on the grace of the

Lord. In acknowledging this weakness and dependency on Christ, we allow Him to sustain us with His love. The world often tells us to hide our weaknesses, but the Lord tells us to lay them down at the foot of His saving Cross. What the world sees as failure, we as Christians see as an opportunity for transformation. In the struggle of weakness, we are united with Christ and made strong through his light.

## Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

The virtue exemplified by St. Paul that I most aspire to is his deep zeal for the salvation of souls. In a remarkable encounter on the road to persecute Christians in Damascus, Paul encountered the Risen Lord who changed the entire trajectory of his life. Following this encounter, Paul’s heart was set ablaze, and he went forth proclaiming the Gospel across the Roman Empire to primarily non-Jewish people. Paul was fervent in evangelization and won many souls for the Kingdom of God, establishing local churches and correcting theological error. Through imprisonment, beatings, and eventual martyrdom, Paul’s zeal for souls never wavered as he placed the building of the Kingdom ahead of his personal comfort and safety. In this tenacious cooperation with the grace of almighty God, St. Paul displays a zeal for souls and spirit of evangelization that I deeply admire and hope to practice in my daily life. Despite being separated by centuries, our present age shares a similar crisis. In modern culture, Christ is far from the forefront which results in many souls not knowing his love and the truths of the Gospel. Although many differences exist between the time of the early Church and today, the parallels are undeniable. Thus, there is a great need for us to emulate the holy apostle Paul’s zeal for the salvation of souls as we seek to win souls for the Lord.

## Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. Maximilian Kolbe.** Through his priestly ministry and eventual martyrdom, he offered a profound example of unwavering courage, charity, and total surrender to the Lord. These are all virtues that I seek to emulate. Saint Maximilian Kolbe, pray for us!



# JACOB NORMAN

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House of Formation**  
2589 S. Webster Ave.  
Green Bay, WI 54301-2951

**Year**  
Kairos Year

**Parish**  
St. Joseph Parish,  
Green Bay

**Birthday**  
July 24

**Contact**  
jakenorman2005@gmail.com

## What is the best type of ice cream?

Vanilla caramel. Best combo in culinary history, simple and delicious.

## What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

My greatest personal victory is the development I experienced as a person in my time working in the trades. In one simple year, I went from scared and inexperienced to being trusted to work with very expensive equipment.

## What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

The wound from the spear was the first thing I can remember learning about Jesus. It is actually the earliest memory I have being in a church. I was very young, maybe around five or six, and I asked my mother, "Why does he have a cut on his chest?" She explained that a soldier stabbed Him, and as a child I couldn't understand why someone would stab Jesus.

## How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

Prayer has been the focus for me this year, especially for people I know. Growing in this respect has really brought a lot of joy to my life. Prayer starts a snowball effect; the more you pray, the more you want to pray. Realizing that I can pray for anyone at any time, especially those who I do not particularly like or associate with, has brought much joy and even humility to my life. Despite not being able to help someone physically, I can always pray for them, and there really is no reason not to.

## What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

Colossians 3:11: "Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all and in all." A simple yet incredibly powerful thing to say. This message is a true display of the unity that is Christianity. People have always seen others as different because of race, ethnicity or upbringings, and it is up to us as Catholics to look past that and see Christ within everyone. The light of Christianity has reached all corners of the world, and the Catholic Church truly shows this in all aspects. The

many saints we venerate are an amazing example of this quote being put into action. There are saints from every continent, all parts of the world, and all different walks of life: beautiful stories of rich and prosperous people giving it all up to follow Christ or heroic stories of a poor beggar proclaiming the word of God to all they meet. They are all from different nations, different cultures, and different status in society, kneeling before Christ in the same Church. In our Church there is only Jesus Christ and his love for all of humanity.

## Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

Humility and the ability to change. The complete turnaround of St. Paul from Saul is perhaps the most famous conversion story ever. The amount of humility it would take to go from hunting a group of people down to proclaiming their own message is inspiring. I aspire to have the humility to accept every day that I am a sinner and will always need Christ in my life to improve myself, lest he knock me off my horse. Even after converting, many people still feared St. Paul and would hide from him, and I am sure he felt out of place because of this and his past. Despite that, he still gave everything to Christ all the way to his martyrdom. Feeling odd and out of place is a common struggle that takes much humility to overcome, and we all have that at some point in our lives, but St. Paul shows us how to overcome that and to give your life to Jesus Christ even through that. St. Paul is a story of a life being changed by being humbled by Christ. In our society today, leading a humble life can be difficult, and this aspect of St. Paul is very important to focus on.

## Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St Eligius.** I prayed for his intercession a lot in my time in the trades, and I'm sure he will continue to pray for me in seminary.



# DAVID TIMM

**Holy Name of Jesus  
House of Formation**  
2589 S. Webster Ave.  
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**Year**  
Kairos Year

**Parish**  
Holy Family Parish,  
Brillion

**Birthday**  
September 8

**Contact**  
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## What is the best type of ice cream?

For me, the best combination is smooth vanilla, chocolate swirl, and crunchy chocolate cups with peanut butter or caramel inside.

## What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

During my electrician career, the schedule was to be at work by 6:00am. This required me to wake up at 4:00am to pray my morning prayer. It took great perseverance and discipline, which makes this my greatest personal victory to date.

## What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

When I was very young, my mother would point toward the altar during the Consecration. She directed my attention to the Host being lifted up as our pastor declared, "This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world." At that moment, my mother told me, "That is Jesus."

## How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

I have celebrated this Jubilee Year of Hope by completing the Exodus 90 challenge. I finished it with a deep renewal of my faith and a stronger dedication to Jesus Christ. I still continue some of the disciplines from that challenge, such as Holy Hours, fasting, and taking cold showers. After Easter, I consecrated myself to Mary to further deepen my relationship with both her and Jesus. Every day, I read a chapter from the book *33 Days to Morning Glory* by Fr. Michael E. Gaitley, and then I prayed to the Immaculate Mary in my consecration prayer.

## What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

My favorite verse from St. Paul is from his Letter to the Romans, 5:3-4. I have read it many times and have always loved its meaning, even choosing it for my senior yearbook section in high school. St. Paul reminds us that we must endure trials on earth as God's way of strengthening our trust in Him and developing our interior growth. Perseverance in times of struggle shapes our character, and that character produces an unshakable hope. Turning

wholeheartedly to God in every situation reveals the path of the righteous. This verse is especially powerful for this Jubilee Year of Hope, a reminder that our hope rests securely in God's promise of salvation and in the countless ways He has shown His love for us again and again. Walking patiently with God requires endurance. It calls us to follow His commandments faithfully, to love others deeply, and to imitate Jesus in all that we do.

## Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

The virtue exemplified by St. Paul that I aspire to most is patience. I have been challenged many times to grow in this fruit of the Spirit. Patience is so much more than simply waiting for traffic to move or standing in a line. Patience with God is far deeper. How many times has God patiently waited for me? Perhaps an easier question to answer here on earth is: When have I patiently waited for God? Asking Him questions can be difficult, because he doesn't always answer right away. I have had to learn to wait for His response. For example, I asked Him many times about my vocation. This is where I began to truly develop patience, supported by perseverance and trust that God would answer. I know that all things will be revealed in His time. During Exodus 90, I had many opportunities for contemplation during Holy Hours. Time and again, I asked God what my vocation was. One day, while reflecting on my calling to enter the Kairos Year, considering past experiences and the people He had placed in my life, I realized it was God speaking to me. The wait had been long, but the answer came. I reminded myself that it happened in God's time, not mine. The next time I find myself waiting, I will remember how patient God is with me.

## Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. John Bosco.** Like him, who left his work to pursue the priesthood, I am leaving my stable electrician career to discern my calling, while continuing to enjoy serving and guiding the youth as he did.



# HENRY VANDE HEY

**Holy Name of Jesus  
House of Formation**  
2589 S. Webster Ave.  
Green Bay, WI 54301-2951

**Year**  
Kairos Year

**Birthday**  
January 3

**Parish**  
St. Katharine Drexel Parish,  
Kaukauna

**Contact**  
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## What is the best type of ice cream?

My grandfather would say that there are no bad flavors of ice cream, which is true except for pineapple ice cream, because that is just gross.

## What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

David Timm accidentally ran into me while playing basketball and wound up breaking my knee on the day of our choir concert and only three months away from our Rome pilgrimage. I made both the concert and the trip, which allowed me to grow in patience and dedication.

## What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

The first thing I learned about Jesus was through the Baltimore Catechism. The first question is, who made us? God made us. Who is God? God is the supreme being who made all things. Why did God make us? God made us to know, love, and serve Him and be with Him in Heaven. I was told Jesus was God, so by extension, this is what I first learned about Jesus.

## How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

For the beginning part of the year, I was in San Diego, so I made plans to travel to Los Angeles to celebrate the Jubilee Year. The following week, however, there were fires, and I didn't quite make it up there for that. I was able to go to the pilgrimage site at St. Pius X Parish in Appleton, as well as All Saints Parish in Gladstone, Michigan, which is one of the pilgrimage sites in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. It has truly been a blessing to make pilgrimages to numerous dioceses this Jubilee Year.

## What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

Romans 8:38-39: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." When I was six years old, I suffered from numerous kinds of food intolerances. My little brother and my older

sister also had intolerances, and so we lived by a strict special diet. My mother's heart bled to see her children suffer and God heard her pleas. She heard on Relevant Radio that there was to be a special healing Mass at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion with Fr. Ubald Rugirangoga. When we went, he brought the Eucharist over us and in that instant, something was lifted off of me, and we were healed. God goes to unfathomable depths to show His love to His children. St. Paul's verse here reminds me of this example of His love for me.

## Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

St. Paul had a deep love and devotion for the Gentiles who were thought to be set apart from God's plan for salvation by some, for they were not the chosen people of Israel. This love of the forgotten I find inspiring. I am a middle child out of 11 children, so I have been forgotten on a few occasions. I also was homeschooled until I began eighth grade, and when I went to school, I struggled to make friends or fit in and learned even more what it means to be overlooked. However, I was able to ground my identity in Christ and learn what it means to be found by Him and loved by Him. I now wish to fearlessly find those who have been overlooked by the world. I wish to find those who are dead spiritually and show them the Way, the Truth, and the Life. St. Paul went and was martyred for bringing these people to Jesus. Life eternal is infinitely longer than right now, and so why should I worry about offending, looking ridiculous, or even losing my life to this world if it all amounts to one soul being saved and brought into the loving fold of Christ? The world rejected Christ and put Him to death, and He willingly accepted that as through it He could save the world. To follow in the footsteps of Christ means to go to one's death, fighting for souls till the end.

## Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. Bonaventure.** He was a Franciscan intellectual who can help me learn and balance intellectual and physical virtues.



# NATHAN WOLF

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House of Formation**  
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**Year**  
Kairos Year

**Parish**  
St. Nicholas Parish,  
Freedom

**Birthday**  
April 25

**Contact**  
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## What is the best type of ice cream?

The best type of ice cream is chocolate with cookie crumble. The chocolate provides a rich flavor while the cookie crumble adds a slightly crunchy texture, creating a delicious combination.

## What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

While attending a secular college, I helped a friend convert to the Catholic faith by simply being a witness to a life of genuine happiness. This has always stayed with me as a remarkable victory that God accomplished through me.

## What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

As a child, the first thing I remember learning about Jesus was His love for me. The words to the song, "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so" come to mind as an early memory. The message was simple but powerful. Jesus truly does care for me and desires an intimate relationship with me in the same way that my parents love me.

## How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

This Jubilee Year, I joined thousands of other pilgrims in the 22-mile Walk to Mary, travelling to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. This was a powerful experience where I saw pilgrims from across the country witness to their Catholic faith and devotion to Mary. This journey helped renew my love for Mary and commitment to her son, Jesus. The walk was especially powerful during this Jubilee Year, as the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion has been designated as a sacred place of pilgrimage within the diocese.

## What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Galatians 2:20). I love this verse from St. Paul because of its deep insights into how we can unite ourselves with Christ. St. Paul first points to the cross where Jesus was crucified. Like Jesus, we are called to take up our crosses daily and bear life's

sufferings. Through this, the parts of ourselves that fall to temptation and sin can die. And in their place, we can allow Christ to live instead.

I also love this verse for its underlying focus on the Eucharist. How might we allow Christ to live in us? By taking his flesh and blood into our own bodies for sustenance! This verse reminds us that the Eucharist truly is an essential part of our faith. Every time we receive the Eucharist, we unite with Christ and allow Him to live in us.

## Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

Humility is the virtue of St. Paul's that I most aspire to. Despite his clear leadership position in the Church, Paul consistently shows humility in his writing. For example, in his First Letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul says, "For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God" (1 Corinthians 15:9). If anyone could boast of himself, it would be St. Paul the Apostle. However, he refuses to do so.

Importantly, St. Paul does not just diminish himself but exalts God in his place. Immediately after calling himself the least of the apostles, he credits the grace of God for his good works. This is important because humility is not just self-deprecation, but it requires recognizing your strengths and viewing them as gifts from God.

In my life, it is all too easy for pride to work its way in, and the struggle to remain humble is never-ending. Even my good works can lead to pride if they are not done for the glory of God. With St. Paul as a role model, though, I hope to continue to grow in humility and praise God for the good He has done through me.

## Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. Joseph.** He is my confirmation saint and an incredible example of faith in God's plan. I look to him for guidance in my own faith and admire his dedication to Jesus.