



Christopher Aust
Theology 2
Mundelein Seminary
St. Mary, Mokena
Birthday: October 7

My name is Christopher Aust. I was born October 7, 1989 to my loving parents Joan and Richard. I have two older half-sisters and was raised in Frankfort. I was baptized at my home parish, St. Mary in Mokena. I am blessed to be part of a faithful Catholic family that instilled a strong faith in me. The two women that most impact my faith are my Grandmothers. Their strong prayer life, acts of self-sacrificing charity, and devotion to God and His Church continue to inspire me.

Like many others, God has blessed me with the gift of music. Throughout my childhood I enjoyed participating in my public school's choir and band programs along with serving in music ministry, as an instrumentalist and vocalist, at both St. Mary in Mokena and St. Francis Woods (the Franciscan Motherhouse in Frankfort).

In high school I was privileged to gain invaluable experience in a leadership role at a young age by serving as one of Lincoln-Way East High School Competitive Marching Band's Drum Majors for three years. The experience was so positive that, following high school, I attended VanderCook College of Music in Chicago. After graduating with my Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education, I spent one year teaching at a charter school in the Englewood neighborhood on the south side of Chicago and two years teaching in the Flossmoor School District. It was during this three-year period that things began to change. As much as I enjoyed my career as an elementary and junior high school general music teacher, something was missing from the deep drive and passion I possessed for a career in music education.

My pastor at the time, Fr. Jim Dvorscak, asked me on two separate occasions if I had ever thought about being a priest. I then had the opportunity to hear Fr. Ed Shea, a Franciscan priest, come to St. Mary and give a presentation. Being blessed with a background in music himself, I was inspired to see and hear how Fr. Shea so beautifully incorporated his own gift of music into his vocation to the priesthood. Following his presentation, he too, asked me if I had ever thought about becoming a priest. After being asked three times about becoming a priest, I thought I better start praying and asking some questions myself since three is a pretty significant number in our Catholic faith.

After attending an Operation Andrew Dinner, I began my "formal" discernment with the help of the diocese. Through prayer our Lord showed me that, outside of school or work, my life revolved around my faith and the church which is where my drive and passion truly are. I am looking forward to my fourth year of formation and continuing theological studies at University of Saint Mary of the Lake Mundelein Seminary.

Over this past Summer I was blessed to complete my Spanish Immersion in Antigua Guatemala. It was my first international trip and a wonderful opportunity to learn the Spanish language in a Central American country while experiencing their culture.

I would like to thank my family for their unwavering support. I would also like to thank the current pastor of my home parish, Fr. Dindo Billote, former Parochial Vicar, Fr. John Lovitsch, and current Parochial Vicar, Fr. Raed Bader, for their incredible support. Furthermore, I would

like to thank my parish brothers, Greg Alberts, Brian Geary, and Luis Miguel Garcia, the CCW Ladies, the Knights of Columbus Council at St. Mary in Mokena, and the entire St. Mary parish community for all their prayers and support. Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank and commend the Serra Club of DuPage County for their efforts and hard work to support vocations in our great diocese.

It is truly an honor to be a seminarian for the Diocese of Joliet. Thank you and God Bless!