



Samuel Bergmann

College 1

St. John Vianney College Seminary

St. Jude, Joliet

Birthday: October 28

My name is Samuel Bergmann, and I will be entering St. John Vianney for my first year of college seminary this fall. I am the son of Brian and Wendy Bergmann and the third of four children. My family has been a wonderful part of my life and essential in my growth as a person.

Growing up, I was a member of St. Jude Church in Joliet. I was fortunate enough to attend the Catholic grade school in my home parish where I was introduced to my faith and came to understand its teachings. I was also surrounded by wonderful examples of men and women who had been called to the priesthood and religious life. I was taught by several Dominican Sisters who remain some of the most joyful women I have ever known, and my parish priest became a significant role model who proved to me that God clearly knew what He was doing when He called men and women to their vocation. My time at St. Jude School ended up laying the seeds of my faith that became essential later in my life.

Following grade school, I attended a public high school in Minooka. I vividly remember wondering whether or not I would be able to keep my faith as I entered an incredibly different environment that was no longer wholeheartedly supportive of it. Fortunately, my time at Minooka ended up being perhaps the most important period in my faith life yet. Since I was no longer surrounded by people who shared the exact same beliefs as me, I ended up becoming close friends with individuals from a massive variety of spiritual backgrounds; however, our beliefs were a core part of each of us. Because of this, we spent many hours at lunch or after school discussing the similarities and differences of our faiths, and the more I discussed my beliefs, the more I desired to learn about them. I began to research heavily into the teachings of the Catholic Church and participate more actively in its practices. Adoration and daily prayer, specifically, became far more important in my life, and I finally began to understand how much my faith meant to me.

As I have grown in my faith life the past few years, I have felt increasingly called to the priesthood. When I look into my future, no other possibility or role grants me as much peace of mind and soul. I look forward to continuing my discernment this fall, and trust that God will continue to reveal his plan for me.