



## **Andrew Bogusz**

**College 2**

**St. John Vianney College Seminary**

**Ss. Peter & Paul, Naperville**

**Birthday: January 14**

My name is Andrew Bogusz. I grew up in Naperville with my parents, Joseph and Sarah, and my two younger siblings, Rita and Jude. I am blessed to be a parishioner of Saints Peter and Paul Parish since birth. After attending Catholic School for five years, my family decided, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to begin homeschooling all of us using Seton Homeschool Catholic curriculum in which the

Faith is an integral part of every subject. For me, the eight years of homeschooling have helped me grow not only in knowledge, but especially in the love of Our Lord and my Catholic Faith.

Saints Peter and Paul is a second home for me and my family. I grew up watching my parents getting involved in various ministries and giving of themselves in service of Our Lord and others. They taught us to love and appreciate our priests, to pray for them daily, and as often as possible, to share a meal with them. I remember feeling so special that a priest is dining with us the same way Jesus did with his disciples. I can honestly say that I do not remember a day going by without praying for our seminarians, priests, and deacons. Attending the Seminarian Send-Off has also been a tradition in my family for the past ten years. Wanting to be involved at church like my parents, I began serving at the Lord's altar in fourth grade and have not stopped ever since then. I also sang with the Sacred Music choir as well as the Latin Schola. Three years ago, myself and seven other high school boys from our parish established a chapter of the Knights of the Holy Temple, which is an organization dedicated toward exceptional service at the Mass, service in the local community, and the spiritual growth of its members.

For years, I prayed for and watched the now Fr. Max Behna, and James Guarascio go through their priestly formation with such joy and zeal, which encouraged me to consider the priesthood. Attending Operation Andrew Dinners held throughout our diocese and listening to Fr. Burke speak tugged at my heart even more. Since I was entering high school, I seriously began discerning God's plans for my future. In 2016, Fr. Milota took me and three other young men to visit Saint John Vianney College Seminary. Meeting the seminarians in person and seeing how they live has encouraged me in my discernment.

Pursuing God's call led me to become an adorer at the perpetual Eucharistic adoration chapel at my home parish where I would often beg God to make my vocation clear to me. On numerous occasions as I walked the parish grounds, people whom I do not even know, would ask me if I have considered becoming a priest. I believe that God may be speaking through these people. Last summer, I was blessed to be able to attend World Youth Day 2016 in Poland. After returning from this faith-strengthening experience, I decided to begin the application process for the seminary. I will never forget the day I received the call from Fr. Burke on April 20, 2017, telling me that I was officially accepted. My first year at seminary was full of blessings

and I am eager to begin my second year at Saint John Vianney College Seminary where I will continue to discern my vocation.