



Sam Conforti
Theology 2
Mundelein Seminary
Christ the King, Lombard
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I have finished three years of seminary study at Mundelein Seminary and have three more years of study before earning a Master Degree in Divinity. This Summer I continued my work at Holy Ghost Parish in Wood Dale as part of the Teaching Parish Program.

I am a cradle Catholic and was raised by good and hardworking parents. All four of my grandparents were immigrants and instilled into my parents the work ethic of that great generation. My parents did the same for me. Their influences on me also included imparting and sharing their Catholic faith. Family has always been a constant in my life. We were always together for holidays, family picnics, and weekend visits to one of my grandparent's houses. Our tables were always full of aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and neighbors. I grew up in the 60's and had dozens of friends and played mostly sports, either organized or pick-up games. I loved school and this feeling stayed with me from grammar school, through high school, college, law school, and graduate business school.

My faith has always been a part of my life. As a young man I had never considered the priesthood as my vocation and naturally assumed I would marry and raise a family. A defining moment in my life was the day after I attended a three day Cursillo retreat. On that fourth day, I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit and was filled with much joy. After approximately two years of discernment and questioning "*am I worthy*" for such a vocation, I contacted the Joliet Diocese Vocation Office and spoke to Fr. Burke Masters.

I firmly believe that everything is on God's time schedule. I have done nothing special except answer "Yes" to a call from God. All of my prayers are simply centered on handing my "Will" over to God. There is no "I want" involved in my vocation other than I want what God wants. I truly believe that the priesthood is a gift from God. One does not seek it but is called to it. As a priest I would be participating in Christ's priesthood and acting "In Persona Christi".

If I am to become a priest, I must be willing to give all of myself, my thoughts, words, and deeds, to ministering to his children. I must realize the awesomeness that God is placing in my hands and understand that it is not I who would be performing these ministerial duties but Christ, with the Holy Spirit, working through me.