



David Diesem
Theology 2
Mundelein Seminary
Our Lady of Mercy, Aurora
Birthday: May 7

My name is David Diesem, and I am from Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Aurora. I celebrate my fifth anniversary as a seminarian for the Diocese of Joliet. I have just completed my first year of Theology at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The focus of my studies were Philosophy and Religious Studies as a Second Vocation (for older seminarians) and to complete my Bachelor's Degree at Cardinal Stritch University, which is affiliated with Saint Francis de Sales. Starting next year, I will be transferring to Saint Mary of the Lake Mundelein Seminary as a second year Theologian with an aim to complete my studies for the priesthood.

I am 49 years old and the oldest of four children to Marianne and Roger Diesem, who were former parishioners of Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Naperville. Last year my parents relocated to Lilburn, Georgia. My current residence is my home parish, Our Lady of Mercy in Aurora, where I have been an active member with the parish, including teaching religious education for both junior high students and adults (from bible studies, Christ Renews His Parish, Cursillo, etc.), acting as an Extraordinary Minister, Lector, Usher, Adult Alter Server, fourth-degree member of Knights of Columbus and any other ministry as needed.

When I lost my job in July 2012, I didn't lose my hope or faith, but instead became strengthened in it. With the intercession of Our Holy Mother, Mary, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, encouragement of family, friends, and parishioners like yourselves I applied and was accepted to the Diocese of Joliet as a seminarian. Last summer I completed IPF, a 10-week program to help prepare for entering Theology and for our priestly formation. During that Summer I was able to reflect on that experience, through which, I was able to see how God's love and grace helped me to discern His will, by answering my vocation toward the priesthood.

This Summer I was living in the rectory at Saint Mary Immaculate, while I was working at the Chancellory for the Diocese of Joliet Blanchette Center in the Office of Human Dignity. I completed my last class through Saint Francis de Sales Seminary during the Summer by attending a three-week archeological dig in the Holy Land. Please know that I was praying for Diocese of Joliet, family, friends, and the members of Serra while I was on the pilgrimage and dig.

These last five years have been an amazing journey, and I owe everything I have received to the Trinity, the intercession of Our Holy Mother, the Saints, and support from the wonderful people like yourselves. I am thankful for all the support I have received from my family, friends, parishioners, Knights of Columbus, and members of the Serra Club. Through

their endless love, support, and encouragement they helped me succeed and move forward into Theology. I am looking with gratitude and great enthusiasm for these next three years which I spend with a focus on my ordination to the priesthood.

Thank you for your support. Take care, and God bless.