



Brian Geary
Theology 1
Mundelein Seminary
St. Mary, Mokena
Birthday: March 19

Hello! My name is Brian Geary, and I will be entering my first year of Theology this fall at Mundelein Seminary.

I was born March 19, 1991 in Oak Lawn, Illinois to my parents William and Eileen Geary. We moved to Mokena in 1993, and my sister Allison was born shortly thereafter. St. Mary's has been my parish home since that time. There I completed my Religious Education courses, and received the sacraments of first Reconciliation, Communion, and Confirmation.

I attended Lincoln-Way East High School, where as a saxophone player I was involved in nearly every aspect of the school's music department. I graduated in 2009, and that fall I entered the University of Illinois to study Music Education. As a music major, I was a member of several concert bands, saxophone quartets, and the world-famous Marching Illini. During this time, I also became very involved with St. John's Catholic Newman Center. I joined Bible studies and became active in the Koinonia retreat program. For the first time, I was part of a Catholic community that was joyful and on fire for their faith. Through this community I began to develop a prayer life, as well as many life-long friendships.

Following my freshman year, I felt the pull to become more involved in Newman's ministries – I became a Bible study leader through FOCUS, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, and became active as a speaker on several retreats, eventually leading one my senior year. During these years I saw many examples of good and holy priests living out their vocations with joy and zeal. I never knew that the life of a priest could be so joy-filled. Through these witnesses, I learned to ask God what He wanted for my life.

I graduated from U of I in 2013, and soon began teaching band for grades 5, 6, and high school in the suburbs. I also become involved with several Catholic young adult groups in the area. I thoroughly enjoyed my work, but through prayer I began to feel God asking me to consider the possibility of the priesthood. After continued discernment, I realized I would never know God's plan for my life unless I applied to the seminary. I am so grateful for the support of my family, the St. Mary's Parish community, and the whole Diocese of Joliet! Having completed two years of philosophy studies, I look forward to beginning my theology studies this Fall. Thanks for reading!