



Joseph LeMay
College 2
Pontifical College Josephinum
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*There's a train station inside of this train
Where the people go to try and escape.
And with anxious eyes, we stand in line
Til' the cold ground shakes
To tell us it's time for the trains
Yes it's time for the trains to stop.*

*Some were steel and some were gold
And each conductor raved:
They shouted, "Buy your tickets, save your souls,"
But one Conductor sang:*

*He shouted, "You! Come follow me!
I'll buy your tickets and I'll pay your fees
'Cuz I know what you cost.
Believe me without this train you will be lost."
-Train Station by The Gray Havens*

I was born in Downers Grove on February 22nd, 1991, the second son of my parents, Robert and Bonnie LeMay. They raised my brother, Matthew, and me in a loving home, committed to God, to each other, and to their two sons. They named me after St. Joseph, patron of the parish they joined in Downers Grove after being married in 1983, and the parish I have been a part of since birth, where I received all my sacraments and attended kindergarten through 8th grade. My love for trains began with the routine of picking my mother up at the train station each evening as she returned home from work. I have many fond memories standing on the platform with my father and brother, waiting to greet my mother and leap into her arms.

By 8th grade, my passion for trains had grown and I decided to pursue a career as a locomotive engineer after high school. In 2010, a year after graduating from Benet Academy, I was hired by the BNSF Railway and worked there for six and a half years. Though I felt that God had placed this passion inside me and had helped me attain my dream, I did not have a personal relationship with Him and never stopped to consider what He might want me to do with my life.

Now, one thing many may not know about railroading is that while the engineer is the one actually at the controls, the conductor is the ultimate authority, the "boss" of the train. The engineer must follow the conductor's instructions, in many cases trusting his conductor when he cannot see what the conductor sees. Jesus is my Conductor and yours. I'm at the controls of my life thanks to the free will He has given me. But He's the boss, and He can see everything. I

can choose to either follow His instructions or ignore Him. For a long time, I didn't even realize He was guiding me. Then, when He started calling me into a deeper relationship, I followed as best I could. But when I heard Him calling me to follow Him into seminary, I didn't trust Him completely.

When I was doubting, thinking about settling for the trains of steel in place of gold, I heard these words deep within my heart at Mass on the 4th of July, 2017 after receiving the Eucharist: "Come follow me." I still can't see all that my Conductor sees, but he's paid for my ticket and without Him I'd certainly be lost. And I have been so blessed on the journey after deciding to climb aboard.

Having completed my first year of seminary and taught Totus Tuus over the summer, I have met and worked with so many beautiful, amazing people in God's family, including a youth minister who introduced me to the wonderful song I quoted. Thank you to the Serra Club and to everyone who has remembered "that train guy" and kept me in your prayers. All aboard!