



Jeremy Leganski
Pre-Theology 2
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My name is Jeremy Leganski and I am the middle child of my loving parents, Gerard and Julie. I have an older brother and a younger sister, and we were raised in Darien. Throughout high school, I was involved with Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in leading retreats and attending mission trips, yet my participation was mainly social as opposed to spiritual.

During my freshman year at Vanderbilt University, I placed faith on the back burner and became engrossed in the social scene. Realizing this way of life ultimately brought me emptiness, I attended a retreat called "Awakening." On that retreat, I encountered the love of Jesus Christ and received a glimpse of the joy that comes from knowing Him. Over time, I came to understand that only life with Christ brings true fulfillment, so throughout the rest of my time in college, I sought relationships and experiences that would bring me closer to our Lord.

While studying abroad in Florence, Italy the summer after my sophomore year, the priesthood kept coming up in my prayers at daily Mass. Initially I tried to suppress these thoughts, yet as they continued to surface, I decided to more actively discern my vocation. Upon returning home, I began spiritual direction, spoke with Fr. Burke Masters, met seminarians, and served as a Totus Tuus teacher. Although there was no single moment when I knew the Lord was calling me to seminary, one conversation I had with a seminarian helped in my decision to apply to seminary instead of medical school. He said: "I experienced the tug to seminary when I was working at my *dream* job." I took that to prayer and realized, even if I were accepted to my *dream*, medical school, seminary would undoubtedly still be on my mind.

That time of prayer brought me a lot of peace, helping me realize the desire that had been growing over the previous year was genuine. Thus, I applied to seminary, and I was accepted by the Diocese of Joliet in February 2017.

After graduating from Vanderbilt in May 2017, I began formation at the Pontifical College Josephinum. My first year was blessed with peace and joy as I continue to discern the Lord's will. This summer, I served as a Totus Tuus teacher again, and I am looking forward to my second year of pre-theology this fall! Thank you for your continued generosity and prayers!