



Daniel Obendorf

College 1

St. John Vianney College Seminary

Ss. Peter & Paul, Naperville

Birthday: July 8

Hello, my name is Daniel Obendorf. I was born on July 8, 1999 to my parents Steve and Cheri. I was born and raised in Naperville and have three older siblings: Kyle, Kenny and Lori. I also have a wonderful sister-in-law, Rebecca. Before I entered 6th grade, my family switched parishes to Saints Peter and Paul (which caused much grinding of teeth from my siblings and me). I attended Religious Education for three years at Peter and Paul and was confirmed at the end of 8th grade.

My vocation story begins when my mom quite literally forced me to go on a retreat at Franciscan University in Steubenville. My mom called my fellow seminarian, Kyle Langan (the Youth Minister at St Jude at the time) and the two of them conjured up a spot a week before I was to leave. My mom packed my bags and dropped me off at St Jude's in Joliet. I was completely unaware of God's plan for me on this retreat. During Eucharistic Adoration, the priest processed the monstrance around the gym. While he was standing right over me, I looked into the monstrance and, for the first time, felt a rush of great love and mercy. After that moment, I had this feeling that God was calling me to discern priesthood.

That Fall, I attended Metea Valley High School where I was very involved in the music program and various honor societies. Although I played basketball and volleyball my Freshman year, I stepped away from it afterward to focus on my faith and my studies (although I still greatly enjoy playing basketball at gyms and in my driveway).

I was very involved in my parish youth group when Fr. Steven Borello started a chapter of the Knights of the Holy Temple at Saints Peter and Paul. Fr. Steve neglected to tell me that this would involve serving Mass, which I feared, as I would not have joined the Knights if I had known that. The Knights helped foster my discernment as I was challenged to pray and commit to service to Christ and His Church. I slowly developed a great love for the Mass and serving with my brother knights is something that I now look forward to every weekend. Gradually, I joined my brother Knights and became very involved in my parish, attending mission trips, teaching RE and attending and leading retreats.

Throughout high school I struggled to discern the call to priesthood and often shunned the idea that God could possibly be calling me to be a priest, but the words of my mother always relieve my doubt as she reminds me "God does not call the equipped, He equips the called". With the help of wonderful priests in my life like Fr. Steven Borello and Fr. Thomas Milota and a few great visits up to SJV, I decided God was calling me to enter seminary and further discern a call to serve Him as a priest.