



## **Christian Sinclair**

**College 2**

**St. John Vianney College Seminary**

**St. Mary Immaculate, Plainfield**

**Birthday: April 2**

My name is Christian Sinclair, and I will be entering my second year of college seminary at St. John Vianney this Fall. I was born in April 1999 and am the third child of four in my family. From a young age, I have always been active in my faith and desired to grow closer to the Lord. Being a parishioner of St. Mary Immaculate my whole life, I was blessed with the opportunity to attend St. Mary Immaculate school from kindergarten through 8th grade. There I was able to form many wonderful friendships and learn about my faith more. My time there helped me to begin to understand the importance of being involved in the Church community. Though at this point in my life I was not thinking about the priesthood, I know that all of the things I learned and experienced there have helped me arrive at the place I am now.

After my time at St. Mary's, I made the transition to public school at Plainfield Central High School. All four of my years there were great and I formed many more strong friendships. During my sophomore year, a high school religious fraternity, called the Knights of the Holy Temple, was brought to my home parish. I was one of the young men who was invited to learn more about it. Although I had some apprehensions, I decided to give it a try. I had no idea how greatly it would impact my life. Throughout my Junior and Senior years of high school, I was able to grow in deeper love for the Mass and the Eucharist. Also, through my new responsibilities, I was able to grow more in my leadership skills.

In the second half of my Junior year, I was given the opportunity to go on a three day visit to St. John Vianney Seminary. Although I did not feel a call towards the priesthood, I knew that going on the visit with some friends would be an enjoyable time. My visit was wonderful and I enjoyed every second of it, but upon returning I did not feel as though my mind had changed in regards to seminary and the priesthood. However, towards the end of my Junior year, on Divine Mercy Sunday, I felt a profound call to priesthood. As soon as I realized this desire was not my own doing, I tried my best to push it aside. That Summer, I attempted to make my own plans for my future doing what I thought I wanted to do. However, when it came time to apply for colleges, I realized that I could not avoid where I was being called. I knew that the Lord was calling me to enter seminary to begin my journey towards the priesthood, and I knew that by following him I would be truly happy. After I applied to the diocese, I went on another Vianney Visit. This time around, my perspective completely changed and I knew that I was in the place that I was meant to be.

I look back at the first year of seminary formation and am astounded at how much joy I experienced. I truly felt at home at St. John Vianney and it was clear that this path is where the Lord wants me to be. I have been blessed with the ability to form many strong friendships, meet all sorts of people, and visit many wonderful places. Although this past year seemed to

have flown by, when I look back and see all the amazing experiences that the Lord put in my life, I am filled with great anticipation for the future.

This Summer, I was assigned to work for the Diocese of Joliet Catholic Cemeteries at Risen Lord Cemetery in Oswego. I am blessed to have had this time as yet another opportunity of growth, as well as meeting some wonderful people and forming some great memories.

Finally, thank you for all your support over this past year. It is overwhelming to see how much you are all willing to invest in each one of our journeys, as we discern the Lord's will. Thank you for all you do!