



## **Steven Widlowski**

**College 4**

**St. John Vianney College Seminary**

**St. Jude, Joliet**

**Birthday: March 30**

Hello! My name is Steven Widlowski. I was born on Easter Sunday, March 30 1997 to my parents Matt and Lisa Widlowski. I am the older of two children (Lauren, age 19). My parents' commitment to raising me in a loving environment helped me later experience the love of God and hear the call to the priesthood. I am grateful for the endless support and encouragement my family has given me throughout my seminary journey.

I was inspired to embrace my faith while attending St. Jude grade school in Joliet from kindergarten through eighth grade. My faith grew at St. Jude through the sacraments, daily prayer, religion class and altar serving. These experiences, led by the joyful presences of Fr. Michael Lane, the Joliet Franciscans, the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia and my teachers, inspired the life of faith within me.

After grade school, I attended Joliet West High School. I made my prayer life a priority in high school while striving to live virtuously. The Lord revealed the beauty of the faith to me as I immersed myself in Catholic apologetics and continued to serve Mass. I also attended two Steubenville Youth Conferences while in high school, where I witnessed the flame of faith alive in several thousand teens. The beauty of Catholicism became apparent to me through these encounters, and I soon desired to make my faith the most important aspect of my life. During high school, I was fortunate to have many leadership opportunities through Joliet West's band program and Boy Scout Troop 256. As I gained leadership experience the Lord planted a desire for the priesthood in my heart, whereby I would lead souls to Christ. I was also afforded many service opportunities through band and Boy Scouts where I found satisfaction in helping others in need.

Towards the end of high school, my desires for prayer, leadership and service seemed to converge and point to the priesthood. I received much consolation from thinking about priesthood, which eventually led me to attend a Vianney Visit at St. John Vianney College Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. I felt great peace at SJV and was inspired to continue discerning the priesthood. I started my application to the Diocese shortly after the visit and began formation in the Fall of 2015.

My love for God, for the priesthood and for God's people has grown significantly after three years of seminary formation. God has indeed provided, as I have been able to help found the University of St. Thomas Pep Band, minister to the homeless and refugee communities in the Twin Cities area, teach a Religious Education class and oh yeah, spend a semester in Rome!

My love for our great Diocese has also been fostered through teaching Totus Tuus in the Summers of 2016 and 2017. I have met so many faith-filled, joyful Catholics over the past three years who have inspired me to truly invest in formation. I pray that I will one day be able to share God's love with you all as a priest. God Bless!