



Sam Conforti
Theology 3
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Birthday: August 12

I will be entering my 5th year of formation when I return to Mundelein Seminary for the Fall semester. This past semester I completed my Internship at Holy Ghost Parish in Wood Dale. I had the opportunity to participate in many of the daily activities of a Parish Priest. Over the summer I have been enrolled in the Clinical Pastoral Education program (“CPE”) at Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield, Illinois as an Assistant Chaplain participating in discussion groups on the care of the sick and having Patient Encounters on a daily basis. I shall continue to be part of parish life for the Fall Semester as I continue my work in the Teaching Parish Program. In March of 2020 I will be returning from a 10-week Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and, God willing, be ordained a Deacon. I will earn my Master’s Degree in Divinity in May of 2021. Ordination for the priesthood will be in late May of 2021.

I am a cradle Catholic and was raised by good and hardworking parents. All four of my grandparents were immigrants and instilled into my parents the work ethic of that great generation. My parents did the same for me. Their influences on me also included imparting and sharing their Catholic faith. Family has always been a constant in my life. We were always together for holidays, family picnics, and weekend visits to one of my grandparent’s houses. Our tables were always full of aunts and uncles and cousins and friends and neighbors. I grew up in the 60’s and had dozens of friends and played most sports, either organized or pick-up games. I loved school and this feeling stayed with me from grammar school, through high school, college, law school, and graduate business school.

My faith has always been a part of my life. As a young man I had never considered the priesthood as my vocation and naturally assumed I would marry and raise a family. A defining moment in my life was the day I returned from home from a 3-day Cursillo retreat. On that fourth day, I felt the presence of The Holy Spirit and was filled with much joy. After approximately two years of discernment and questioning if I was worthy of such a vocation, I contacted the Joliet Diocese Vocation Office and eventually surrendered my Will over to God.

I firmly believe that everything is on God’s time schedule. I have done nothing special except answer “Yes” to a call from God. All of my prayers are simply centered on handing my “Will” over to God. There is no “I want” involved in my vocation other than I want what God wants. I truly believe that the priesthood is a gift from God. One does not seek it but is called to it. As a priest I would be participating in Christ's priesthood and acting “In Persona Christi”. If I am to become a priest, I must be willing to give all of myself, my thoughts, words, and deeds, to ministering to his children. I must realize the awesomeness that God is placing in my

hands and understand that it is not I who would be performing these ministerial duties but Christ, with the Holy Spirit, working through me.