



Rev. Mr. Michael Groth
Theology 4
Mundelein Seminary
St. John Paul II, Kankakee
Birthday: August 23

I am the only child of Todd and Deb Groth, and was raised in the Kankakee area my entire life. I attended grade school at St. Martins, which is where the first thoughts of priesthood began. Following grade school, I attended Bishop McNamara Catholic High School, where I attempted to push the thought of priesthood out of my heart. After high school, I attended Kankakee Community College for two years, while working at the local parish. In the later years of high school and then into college, I was trying to give God ultimatums as to what I was going to do in my life. That common punch line, "If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans." That is exactly what I was trying to do, and you see how well that worked out!

In third grade, my teacher, Sr. Rose Urbanczyk, a Missionary Sister of the Holy Family, told me that I was going to become a priest. I had absolutely no idea what this meant, let alone how she could possibly know what I was going to do in my life. Fr. Dennis Settles, my pastor for 16 years, God rest his soul, was always sure to keep priesthood in my heart. By calling me to be an altar server, he was always there to answer the numerous questions of my life, which soon began to revolve around the priesthood. As the years went on, Fr. Settles was getting me more involved in the parish through different programs. He was a great inspiration for me by the way he continuously poured himself out in love for me. After Fr. Settles retired, I was blessed to have two inspirational pastors: Fr. Mario Quejadas and Fr. Sunny Castillo.

The three years of formation at St. John Vianney College Seminary (SJV) were such a blessing. Joy and happiness have pervaded my life through prayer and fraternity. One of the great experiences I had while at SJV was studying in Rome. One of the biggest graces of spending five months in Rome was encountering the Communion of Saints – especially St. John Paul II and St. Catherine of Siena.

After completing three years at Mundelein Seminary, I was ordained a deacon on March 30, 2019. While at Mundelein, I have been assigned to Immaculate Conception Parish in Elmhurst, under the pastoring and mentoring of Fr. Tom Paul. It has truly been a blessing to be at IC, to get to know the families, be involved in the grade school and the high school, and to give my life to and for the parishioners.

Thank you for all the prayers and support all these years of seminary formation. Please continue to pray for me as I conclude this journey of seminary and approach Ordination to the Priesthood. Please pray that I may be a shepherd after the Sacred Heart of Jesus.