



Seminarian Jared Beltz

I am currently in my first year of seminary formation. I was born January 13th, 2001, and grew up in Aurora, Illinois. I am the son of Joseph and Brenda Beltz and the fourth of six children. My family has been a wonderful part of my life and important in my growth as a person. I recently graduated from Loyola University Chicago with degrees in Mathematics and Music.

Growing up, I was a member of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Aurora. Being born into a Catholic family, my family made sure we went to Mass every Sunday, participated in religious education, etc. I also served in many ministries at Our Lady of Mercy, ranging from altar serving and singing in the choir as a kid to cantoring and serving as a Eucharistic Minister as an adult. Through all these things, I gained an up-close perspective of the lifestyle of a priest and formed personal relationships with my pastors.

While I was at college, I began to feel more comfortable telling others about my faith in God and spending time in prayer at church, helping at Vacation Bible Schools and going on Mission Trips. I had been trying to decide what I wanted to do after college and the thoughts of priesthood and the Church were always in my mind. I had been told by many people some variation of “Have you ever considered priesthood?” or “Have you ever thought about becoming a priest?”, and these encounters, along with my persistent thoughts, made me begin to seriously discern the priesthood. In addition, I felt that God was trying to speak to me as I listened to the readings on Holy Thursday when Jesus washes the feet of the disciples and makes the point of serving others before Himself. I believe this was God working through the people in my life as well as through His word, furthering the feeling of the call to priesthood.

Since then, I have had many graces come into my life. I am currently taking a “Spirituality Year” and living at the Bishop Quarter House in Chicago, a stage in seminary formation that allows men like me to dive deeper into our Catholic faith. I have been given the opportunity to read the Bible and Catechism in a year, along with serving impoverished neighborhoods in Chicago. I am so blessed to have begun this journey to the priesthood. Please continue to pray for me and my discernment.