



Seminarian Andrew Bogusz

My name is Andrew Bogusz. I grew up in Naperville with my parents, Joseph and Sarah, and my two younger siblings, Rita and Jude. I am blessed to be a parishioner of Saints Peter and Paul Parish since birth. After attending Catholic School for five years, my family decided, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to begin homeschooling all of us using the Seton Home Study School Catholic curriculum in which the Faith is an integral part of every subject. For me, the eight years of homeschooling have helped me grow not only in knowledge, but especially in the love of Our Lord and my Catholic Faith.

Sts. Peter and Paul Parish is a second home for me and my family. I grew up watching my parents participate in various ministries and giving of themselves in service of Our Lord and others. They taught us to love and appreciate our priests, to pray for them daily, and as often as possible, to share a meal with them. I can honestly say that I do not remember a day going by without praying for our seminarians, priests, and deacons.

Attending the Seminarian Send-Off has also been a tradition in my family for more than a decade. Wanting to be involved at church like my parents, I began serving at the Lord's altar in fourth grade and have not stopped. I was also proud to be chosen in a chapter of the Knights the Holy Temple, which is an organization dedicated toward exceptional service at the Mass.

For several years, I prayed for and watched Fr. Max Behna and Fr. James Guarascio as they proceeded on their journeys of priestly formation with such joy and zeal. This was one of the few things that encouraged me to consider the priesthood. Attending Operation Andrew Dinners held throughout our diocese and listening to Fr. Burke Masters speak tugged at my heart even more. When entering high school, I began to seriously discern God's plans for my life. Meeting the seminarians in person at St. John Vianney College Seminary and seeing how they live encouraged me in my discernment. Pursuing God's call led me to become an adorer at the perpetual Eucharistic adoration chapel at my home parish where I would often beg God to make my vocation clear to me. On numerous occasions as I walked the parish grounds, people whom I do not even know, would ask me if I have considered becoming a priest. I believe that God was speaking through these people.

I will never forget the day I received the call from Fr. Burke on April 20, 2017, telling me that I was officially accepted. My time in the college seminary was full of blessings and I can honestly say that I would not trade that time for anything. I look forward to the many graces Our Lord wishes to bestow upon me this year. I am looking forward to this year in Configuration 2 (Theology 2) at Mundelein Seminary.