

Joseph J. Mominee

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What are your hobbies? What are your favorite sporting teams? College? Professional? I find great joy in swimming, hiking, reading and speaking with friends. I like to watch OSU football, but most especially OSU hockey.

What are the popular spiritual writings that you would recommend to other men and women discerning their life vocations? I would recommend “Christ, the Ideal of the Priest” by Blessed Coumba Marmion and “Come Be My Light” by Saint Mother Teresa.

Who are your favorite saints? Why are they your favorite saints? Every seminarian seems to have his own personal “Litany of the saints”. Some favorite saints in my “litany” are St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Bonaventure for seminary studies, my name patron St. Joseph for diligence and endurance, St. Teresa of the Andes for preserving a witness to Christian joy and, most importantly, the Blessed Virgin Mary for perfection in Christian discipleship.

Who are the people (priests, religious and laity) that have influenced your vocational discernment to this point in your journey? A beautiful thing about the life of a seminarian is that he is able to encounter so many different people from every vocation. In my life, the commitment, love and support of my family has been a profound influence on my vocational discernment. The priests that I have met in my life, too, have greatly influenced my understanding and love of the ministry of the priesthood of Jesus Christ, most especially Bishop Daniel Thomas, the priests of Toledo and priest faculty of the seminary.

What are your hopes for the future of the Catholic Church? A beautiful reality of the Church is that while she walks forward in time, she carries with her 2,000 years of men and women who have left behind the legacies of their lives. My hope for the future of the Church is that all may look back to the saints to find the courage to walk forward towards the gate of Heaven.

What advice would you offer young people about discerning a vocation to the priesthood and religious life? To any young person considering the call to the priesthood and religious life, I would urge them to not fear wherever He may lead. A paradox of the faith seems to be that amidst conflicts, wars, cultural forgetfulness of God, Christians can live in the confidence of hope because we rest our lives in the hands of god. Do so, too, with your discernment of a vocation. If we entrust ourselves to the Lord, how can we go wrong?