

Deacon Scott J. Perry

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What are your hobbies? What are your favorite sporting teams? College?

Professional? I enjoy playing sports (especially basketball), running, hiking, reading, and spending time with family and friends. My favorite professional teams are the Cleveland Indians, Cavs, and Browns. My favorite college team is Ohio State.

What are the popular spiritual writings that you would recommend to other men and women discerning their life vocations? "To Save a Thousand Souls" by Fr. Brett Brennen is an excellent resource for men considering the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood. Early on in my discernment, I read the book "I Believe in Love" by Fr. Jean de Elbee which describes the spirituality of St. Therese. Also, the books on Ignatian spirituality/discernment of spirits by Fr. Timothy Gallagher have been the most valuable to me in my discernment.

Who are your favorite saints? Why are they your favorite saints? St. Therese the Little Flower is one of my favorite saints because of her deep love for God and desire to do small things with great love. I also admire St. Ignatius of Loyola because of his spiritual insights and practical advice on discerning the will of God. St. Joseph is my patron since my middle name is Joseph and I am from St. Joseph's parish in Tiffin.

Who are the people (priests, religious and laity) that have influenced your vocational discernment to this point in your journey? It was my eighth-grade religion teacher, Sr. Rita Mae Johns, who taught me something that always stuck with me: "Being the person God wants you to be, doing what God wants you to do with your life will bring you the most peace and joy possible this side of heaven." I have had many, many priests who have inspired me to consider the priesthood, especially my pastor at my home parish, Fr. Joseph Szybka. My family and extended family have given me great support on my journey of discernment of the priesthood.

What are your hopes for the future of the Catholic Church? It is my hope that the Catholic Church would continue to show God's immense, unfathomable love for each and every human person.

What advice would you offer young people about discerning a vocation to the priesthood and religious life? My advice is to be open to whatever vocation that God may be calling you to because following God's plan for your life will lead you to your greatest happiness and fulfillment. Also, pray not only that God may reveal your vocation, but that you may have the courage to embrace and live out that vocation, whatever it may be. Seeking the counsel of a spiritual director is likewise a key component of discerning the priesthood or religious life.