

# **Bradley McNeal**

Home Parish: Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, Toledo

Age: 22

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

**Professional?** I like to read, watch movies, hang out with friends and family, and spending time outdoors. I am a sports fan and enjoy going to sporting events. My favorite sports are baseball, basketball and college football. My favorite teams are the Detroit Tigers, Toledo Mud Hens, University of Toledo Rockets and The Ohio State University Buckeyes.

**What are the popular spiritual writings that you would recommend to other men and women discerning their life vocation?** A couple of books that I would recommend include "To Save a Thousand Souls" by Fr. Brett Brannen, "Surrender" by Fr. Larry Richards, "He Leadeth Me" by Walter Ciszek, SJ and "The Story of a Soul" by St. Therese of Lisieux.

**Who are your favorite saints? Why are they your favorite saints?** One of my favorite saints is St. Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower. Her teaching of The Little Way reminds us that we are all God's children and that we must look up to, trust and love God throughout our life. I am also a fan of St. John Paul II because of his great love for God and others as well as his dedication to serving young people and his example of trusting God during the most difficult times of life. I also like St. Joseph and consider him my patron saint due to my middle name also being Joseph.

**Who are the people (priests, religious and laity) that have influenced your vocational discernment at this point in your journey?** People that have influenced my vocational discernment to this point include: Rev. Eric Schild, Rev. Adam Hertzfeld, Msgr. Michael Billian, Rev. Phil Smith and Bishop Daniel Thomas.

**What are your hopes for the future of the Catholic Church?** My hopes are that we all grow closer to Christ and allow Christ to be in our daily lives. I also hope for us to be living disciples in our world and strive for holiness.

**What advice would you offer young people about discerning a vocation to the priesthood and religious life?** The first thing I would let young people know is not to be afraid of feeling a possible calling. God has a plan for all of us and we must not fear what He is possibly calling us to. Trust in God with the path He has for you. I would also recommend to dedicate time throughout the day to pray and ask God for His guidance. Trust in God and He will lead you the way!