

Albert Beltz

Home Parish: Immaculate Conception, Cleveland

Age: 35

Level of Seminary Studies: 2nd Theology

What are your hobbies? What are your favorite sports teams? College? Professional?

I am a classically trained artist, and over the years I have worked in a variety of mediums and enjoy engaging the world creatively and with an interest toward history. I love to read. I love to hike, climb, kayak, camp, etc, where I am able to engage the beauty of nature and God's own creative activity.

What spiritual writings would you recommend to other men and women discerning their life vocation?

There are many great writings, but some of my most recent:

"God or Nothing", & "The Power of Silence", both by Robert Cardinal Sarah
"Benedict XVI Last Testament", by Peter Seewald

Who are your favorite saints? Why are they your favorite saints?

St. Augustine, whose life remains one of the greatest testaments to authentic conversion and the power of persistent prayer.

Who are the people (priests, religious and laity) who have influenced your vocational discernment to this point in your journey?

There are many deserving of mention for this over the years, but some of the most influential have been priests who exemplified hard work and unrestrained joy in their service to the Church and to their communities.

What are your hopes for the future of the Catholic Church?

That her children will remember God's universal call to holiness, and be courageous enough to persevere in living a life of virtue rooted in the light of the Gospel in a world that too often seems dark.

What advice would you offer young people about discerning a vocation to the priesthood and religious life?

Pray always, and before the Eucharist if possible. Make time for silence each day so that you can hear. Read the works of the Saints and look to their example. Surround yourself with people who love you enough to be honest with you, and dare to show love and compassion toward those who may not. Finally, speak with those priests and religious whom you admire and get to know them and what their lives are like.