

Name: Alexander Elfreich

Home Parish: Saint Joan of Arc, Toledo

Age: 25

Level of Seminary Studies: Theology II

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

My hobbies include playing guitar, reading and writing, and riding bikes. My favorite sports team is the Detroit Tigers.

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

“Be a Man” by Father Larry Richards. “Virginity” by Father Raniero Cantalamessa.

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

Saint Paul is my Confirmation saint. I have always loved Saint Francis de Sales for his wisdom and guidance. I see in Saint John Neumann a model for shepherding God’s people. As a student of theology, I appreciate Saint Thomas Aquinas’s brilliant intellect that is rooted in a deep love of God. Saint Thomas More is an all-around great man. Saint Therese of Lisieux is also great, and her intercession has helped me in my own discernment.

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

Father Jason Kahle, Father Jeff Walker, Father Adam Hertzfeld, Father Tom McQuillen, Father Ron Schock, my parents and grandparents, my friends from Saint Thomas More University parish.

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

A renewal of love for the Mass and devotion to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

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

Don’t discern alone! Find a good priest or religious and talk to them about it. Bring your thoughts to the Lord in the silence of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.