

Benjamin Dollarhide

Home Parish: Epiphany of the Lord

Age: 24

Level of Seminary Studies: Second Theology

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

My hobbies include playing tennis, reading, sight-seeing, spending time with friends, and traveling.

My favorite college football teams are Notre Dame and The Ohio State University.

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

“Priests for the Third Millennium” (Cardinal Timothy Dolan)

“To Save a Thousand Souls” (Father Brett A. Brannen)

“The Joy of Priesthood” (Fr. Stephen J. Rossetti)

“I Believe in Love” (Fr. Jean C. J. D’Elbee)

“Interior Castle” (St. Teresa of Avila)

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

The Blessed Mother, for her unconditional “yes” to the Will of God. St. Peter, for his humanity which plays out so vividly in Sacred Scripture and for his intense love for Our Lord. St. Therese of Lisieux, for her amazingly humble love for our Lord. St. Damien of Molokai, for his service to the outcast, even to the point of death. St. Pio of Pietrelcina, for his intense love for Our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament. St. Jean-Marie Vianney, patron saint of Diocesan Priests, but I have a particular devotion to him because of his apostolic zeal from the pulpit and his merciful care in the confessional.

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

Bishop Daniel Thomas, Msgr. Chas Singler, Fr. Edward Smith, Fr. Tom Widner, Fr. John Blaser, Fr. Jeff McBeth, Fr. Ron Schock, Fr. John Heisler, Fr. Adam Hertzfeld

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

It is my most sincere hope that the Church will continue to proclaim the Truth of Christ Jesus, even in the face of a society which is, so often, hostile to the Church. In turn, it is my hope that there comes about an added respect and reverence for Our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Finally, it is my hope that there is an ever more full acceptance of the universal call to holiness by clergy, religious, and laity.

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

I would echo the words of St. John Paul II and Our Lord in saying, “Do not be afraid.” I know first-hand that this world is filled with roadblocks and obstacles which can make you so afraid that you hesitate to take a step forward. Stay close to Our Lord and His Blessed Mother, they will give you the strength to take that first step. Also, do not try to form yourself into your projection of “ideal” priest, seminarian, religious, husband, and wife; form yourself according to God’s plan for your life.