

# **Bradley J. McNeal**

**Home Parish:** Most Blessed Sacrament, Toledo

**Age:** 24

**Level of Seminary Studies:** I Theology

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

**Professional?** Hobbies that I have include reading, watching movies, working out, playing racquetball, and spending time with friends and family. Some of my favorite sports include baseball, basketball, and college football. My favorite sports teams are the Detroit Tigers, Toledo Mud Hens, University of Toledo Rockets and The Ohio State University Buckeyes.

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

Some popular spiritual writings that I would recommend to others discerning their vocation in life include: "To Save a Thousand Souls" by Father Brett Brannen; "Surrender" and "Be a Man" by Father Larry Richards; "The Imitation of Christ" by Thomas Kempis; "He Leadeth Me" by Walter Ciszek, SJ; "The Story of a Soul" by St. Therese of Lisieux, "I Believe in Love: A Personal Retreat Based on the Teaching of St. Therese of Lisieux" by Father Jean C.J. D'Elbee, and "Introduction to the Devout Life" by St. Francis de Sales.

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

I must first list the Blessed Virgin Mary as she helps draw us all closer to Jesus, is the perfect role model for us all, and we should always seek her intercession within our lives. I also am a fan of St. Therese of Lisieux. I find St. Therese's teaching of "The Little Way" to be very powerful yet a very simple way to live our lives and help us grow deeper in our relationship with our Lord. I am also a fan of St. Francis de Sales and his written works because of his ability to write in a way that is easy for all people to understand. I also look up to St. Teresa of Calcutta, St. Faustina Kowalska, St. John Paul, II, St. John Vianney, St. Patrick, and St. Joseph, who I consider to be my patron saint since my middle name is Joseph.

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

People that have influenced my vocational discernment at this point include: my parents, Reverend Eric Schild, Reverend Adam Hertzfeld, Monsignor Michael Billian, Reverend Phil Smith, Reverend Michael Geiger, Reverend Joseph Poggemeyer, my formation advisor, Reverend Tom McQuillen, my spiritual director Reverend Dave Sunberg and Bishop Daniel Thomas.

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

One of my hopes for the future of the Church is for all people to come to truly know and believe that our relationship with our Lord is the most important relationship that we can have and that we have the great gift of being able to receive Him each day through the

Eucharist at Mass. I also hope that families will continue to pass on the faith to their children and to live their daily lives as holy disciples and families. Finally, it is my hope that there will be an increase in young men and women being open to God's call to vocations in the priesthood and religious life.

**What advice would you offer young people about discerning a vocation to the priesthood and religious life?** One piece of advice I would offer to young people is to not allow fear to take over your discernment. There may be many things on our minds, but we must simply put our full trust in God every single day He will always lead us in the right path and will never abandon us. I would also highly recommend meeting with a priest for spiritual direction as well as taking the time to spend time with our Lord in Eucharistic Adoration.