

Joseph Mominee

Home Parish: Our Lady of Lourdes, Genoa

Age: 25

Level of Seminary Studies: Third Theology

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

My hobbies are running, biking, playing ultimate Frisbee, hiking, reading, and birdwatching.

My favorite college team is OSU for football, basketball, and hockey. My favorite pro teams are the Indians, the Browns, and the Cavs.

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

Some books that I would recommend to men and women are “St. John Paul the Great: His Five Loves” by Jason Evert, “The Right to be Merry” by Mother Mary Francis, “Christ, the Ideal of the Priest” by Blessed Columba Marmion, and St. John Paul II’s letter to all priests on Holy Thursday, 1979 (on the Vatican’s website).

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

One of the many gifts of our Faith is the communion we share with the cloud of witnesses that go before us and pray unceasingly for us. In my life, I know that four saints have been incredibly foundational in my love of Christ and in my discernment for the priesthood. For many years, St. Francis of Assisi has been a saint that I have gone to for prayers and for his modeling of total commitment to Jesus with complete confidence. In my life as a seminarian, St. John Paul II has been a tremendous influence in experiencing how the call of God in our vocational life in no way makes us less human or fickle, but God’s actions in our vocations strengthens us and empowers us to serve Christ with zeal and ardor, becoming more ourselves with each step we take towards His plan. St. Teresa of the Andes has proven to be a great witness and intercessor in her modelling of the joy that comes from loving God above all things and trusting that He always supplies when we trust Him. And, finally, the Blessed Mother of God, Mary, especially as a seminarian, has been an indescribable part of my life in her complete, total, and unfeigned confidence in God. Her complete love for God and for all mankind is a perfect model for us to respond to God’s plan in our own lives.

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

In the Diocese of Toledo, our bishop, Bishop Daniel Thomas, has been a huge influence on me in considering what it looks like to respond joyfully and faithfully to God’s plan. There have also been numerous diocesan priests that have had an influence on my life leading up to and throughout seminary. Father Tad Oxley, Father David Ritchie, and Monsignor Charles Singler were extremely helpful as I began to think about becoming a seminarian a few years after high school. Part of the gift of seminary life is that there are countless priests and religious that become a normality of daily life and routine. In this,

there is a constant, daily witness to priestly identity in how the life of a priest is carried out in the seemingly ordinary moments of life.

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

I am confident that the Lord is the Master of the future of the Church. In my life as a seminarian, I have experienced first-hand ways that I believe that the Lord is raising up men and women, in every vocation, to respond to His call to witness to Him in the dedication of their lives. My confident hope and prayer, then, is that men and women will continue to hear the voice of God in their hearts so that they can trust in His providence and mercy. God knows what He is up to, and He knows what He has called us to.

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

What has brought you to this webpage, to these seminarian bios? This is the question that I would offer to any young person who might read our biographies. My advice for you would be to ask yourself this question: what has brought me to this point in my life? My advice would be to find the hand of God in what He has done this far in your life. Trust that, if you have a desire to be a priest, even if you are unsure of why you might want to be a priest, He knows that nothing is lost when it is given to Him. Confidently trust Him.