

Kory Wise

Home Parish: Tiffin, St. Joseph
Age: 22
Level of Seminary Studies: I Pre-Theology

What are your hobbies? What are your favorite sporting teams? College? Professional? I enjoy listening to music, reading great pieces of literature, and spending quality time with my family and friends. I don't follow many sports teams, but I enjoy watching a good Toledo Mud Hens game once in a while.

What spiritual writings would you recommend to other men and women discerning their life vocation? "To Save A Thousand Souls" by Fr. Brett Brannen has been instrumental in my discernment, and "Discerning the Will of God" by Fr. Timothy Gallagher was a big help in learning some of the many ways God speaks to us.

Who are your favorite saints? Why are they your favorite saints? I've always appreciated St. Peter's example because the Lord chose him to be a leader even though he was imperfect. St. Therese of Lisieux has also been a big influence on my spirituality and love of God because of her profound, yet simple, Little Way.

Who are the people (priests, religious and laity) who have influenced your vocational discernment to this point in your journey? My junior high religion teachers, Deacon Dan Scherger and Sr. Rita Mae Johns did great work in instilling in me a deep love and knowledge of our faith. In many ways, along with my parents, they planted the seeds that would eventually blossom into my current discernment. I've also been blessed to witness the example of many joyful, holy priests, especially my pastor, Fr. Joseph Szybka, which stirred within me a desire to consider the possibility of priesthood.

What are your hopes for the future of the Catholic Church? I hope that the Church will continue to live up to Pope Francis's desire for it to be a "field hospital" for those who are sick or wounded. There is nothing that the love and mercy of God cannot heal.

What advice would you offer young people about discerning a vocation to the priesthood and religious life? Take a step. If you feel something stirring within your heart, do not be afraid to reach out to somebody or do something about it. It's easy just to stay where we are, but we cannot make a vocation out of discerning. Walk with the Lord, and he will guide you to where he wants you to be.