

TRAVIS KAHLE

Home Parish: St. Mary's (Bluffton)

Age: 31

Level of Seminary Studies: Pre-Theology 1

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

I enjoy playing guitar, exercising, reading, and spending time with friends. I enjoy watching the Ohio State Buckeyes football team.

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

Anything on St. John Paul II's "Theology of the Body" is helpful to begin asking better questions about how one might make a gift of their own life rather than asking what one wants to receive from life.

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

St. John Paul II is a great example of a man who lived a radical life of truth and charity for Christ. St. Teresa of Calcutta helped me better understand both how suffering can better unite us to Christ as well as how to see care for the poor as an act of loving Christ himself.

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

My own father and grandfathers lived lives of dedication and hard work for the sake of their families. Sr. Carol, the Pastoral Leader at our parish, always encouraged me towards the priesthood as well as demonstrating what love and leadership for a parish community look like. I was blessed to encounter many great priests along the way.

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

I hope that the Church can be a beacon of truth for a confused world, while remaining charitable and forgiving towards all of humanity.

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

Stop focusing so much on the question, "What do I want in life?" Instead, try to focus on asking, "How can I best make a gift of my life for others and the church?" Pursue the vocation that will allow you to love the most.