



Seminarian Sean Czaplewski

My name is Sean Czaplewski, and I was born on January 15, 2007. I am currently in Philosophy 2 at Saint John Vianney College Seminary.

I was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and moved to Illinois when I was two years old. I attended Saint Joan of Arc Parish in Lisle and went to its school from kindergarten through eighth grade. Saint Joan of Arc fostered my curiosity about the Catholic faith, and through the altar server program I was able to participate more deeply in the Mass.

I then attended Naperville North High School, where I was challenged by a largely secular environment. I was no longer surrounded by many Catholics, and my faith was put to the test. I was frequently challenged about my beliefs, especially around the time of the overturning of Roe v. Wade. These experiences led me to grow in my understanding of the intellectual foundations of the faith, though at the time I did not yet have a strong prayer life.

During my junior year of high school, however, I was invited to attend the youth group at Saints Peter and Paul Parish. There, the youth minister, a well-educated seminarian, helped me continue growing in my faith while also introducing me to new forms of prayer. In January 2024, after returning from the March for Life with the youth group, I was invited to visit Saint John Vianney College Seminary.

During that visit, the rector, Fr. Kelly, gave me a challenge in prayer. Rather than asking God for signs, he encouraged me to ask instead for a conviction in my heart. As I brought this intention before the Lord in Eucharistic adoration, I was overwhelmed with a profound sense of joy and peace. In that moment, I knew that God was calling me to the priesthood.

Over the following year and a half, I continued to grow in prayer and in my relationship with the Lord. In 2025, I entered Saint John Vianney College Seminary. I look forward with gratitude and hope to see how the Good Jesus continues to work in my life and in the lives of those around me in the years to come.