



Seminararian John Meinhart

I am currently in my fifth year of seminary formation. I was born August 4, 1999, and grew up in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. My home parish is Saint Petronille. I graduated from Bradley University with degrees in History and Philosophy along with a minor in Legal Studies.

When I was young, I was very attracted to the idea of becoming a priest. I loved reading the Bible, and I had many good examples of priests in my life. I even was able to visit Mundelein Seminary on a Jeremiah Day event. Despite these initial calls, as I entered high school and college, I drifted from the faith. I changed my life goal to becoming a successful lawyer and spent my time in college working towards this career. While on the outside I was doing well, only a few steps away from applying to law school, something inside me was aching.

“Our hearts are restless, until they rest in You” says Saint Augustine. It was through a long period of prayer, and learning more about our Catholic faith that I began to feel the call again; not just back to the church, but to becoming a priest. How great is God’s mercy and love for each of us is! Spending time in eucharistic adoration, beholding Jesus in the most holy sacrament, greatly helped me in growing my relationship with God and further feeling the call to the priesthood. Since then, I have had so many graces enter into my life.

I am currently in Configuration 2 at Mundelein Seminary, and I have 3 more years before ordination. This summer I participated in the CPE Hospital Chaplaincy program at St. Joseph Hospital in Joliet. It has been a great blessing to bring the love of Jesus to the sick and suffering. Please continue to pray for me, and my discernment.