



Seminarian Daniel Obendorf

My name is Daniel Obendorf, and I was born on July 8, 1999. I am currently in Theology III (Configuration III) at Mundelein Seminary. God willing, I will be ordained to the priesthood in June 2028. I am the son of Cheri and Steve Obendorf and the youngest of four children. My home parish is Ss. Peter and Paul in Naperville.

Faith was central to my upbringing. My family never missed Sunday Mass, no matter what activities or sports were on the schedule, and every night we prayed together and read Scripture for 10–15 minutes. As a freshman in high school, I attended a Steubenville Youth Conference where, during Eucharistic Adoration, I had a profound encounter with God's unconditional love and mercy. That experience deepened my faith and led me to become more involved in my parish through youth ministry, serving at Mass, and teaching religious education. During this time, I began discerning a vocation to the priesthood and visited St. John Vianney College Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. I was inspired by the seminarians I met and became drawn to the seminary environment, which led me to enter the seminary after graduating from high school in 2018.

My four years at St. John Vianney were a time of tremendous spiritual and personal growth. Through daily Mass, Eucharistic adoration, spiritual direction, and the example of holy priests and fellow seminarians, I grew closer to God and became a better man. After graduating, I discerned that I needed to step away from the seminary. Soon afterward, my pastor called and asked me to serve as the youth minister at Ss. Peter and Paul. Over the next two years, I led mission trips, took students on retreats, walked with teens through challenges, and witnessed them encounter Jesus in life-changing ways. These experiences confirmed my call to the priesthood, and in August 2024 I returned to Mundelein Seminary to continue my formation.

Studying at Mundelein has been a great blessing. The Lord continues to pour out His grace upon me, especially through my theology studies and the teaching parish program, where I am assigned to Holy Family in Shorewood and recently spent a full semester on internship learning from the priests there. Please keep me in your prayers as I continue my journey toward ordination, that I may become a priest after the Heart of Jesus who faithfully leads souls to God.