



**Our  
Men  
in  
Black**

**Father Matthew  
DeBlock**  
Parochial Vicar, St.  
Mary Parish, Elgin, IL



**Favorite prayer**

My favorite prayer is Cardinal Newman's prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus – it expresses beautifully how Christ draws us close to His Sacred Heart

**Something about you  
few people would know**

I am an avid railroader and I love historical architecture

**Favorite hobby or  
pastime**

Anything to do with music

**Favorite saint**

St. Joseph is my favorite saint. He is a wonderful patron for priests: a model of humility, stability, and fatherhood.

**Favorite temporal things**

I am a Cubs Fan, I like to watch the West Wing, and I love the Father Brown Mystery stories by G.K. Chesterton.

**What has been a holy  
moment for you in your  
priesthood?**

The most intimate moment in the priesthood for me is at the words of consecration at Mass – this is when I feel completely united with Christ.

**What have you learned  
from your brother  
priests?**

Msgr. John Folda of Lincoln, NE is still a great influence on me today. He taught us (in seminary) the importance of being holy in day-to-day life, of hard work, and fairness.

**Advice for young people  
considering a vocation**

Pray! Make time for silence and try to listen to what God is saying to you. He is speaking but we need to quiet ourselves and listen.