



**Our
Men
in
Black**

Father Thomas Doyle, Jr.

**Associate Pastor, St. Catherine of Siena,
Dundee**

Ordained 2008



Favorite prayer

Of course, daily Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours are incredible and make up an essential part of my prayer life. But, if I had to choose one specific prayer in addition to these, then I would say that the Prayer to the Sacred Heart is my favorite. For one reason, it is an especially appropriate prayer for priests. As St. John Vianney said, "The priesthood is the love of the Heart of Jesus." Therefore, I can think of no better prayer to remind me, as a priest, of whom I am to be like every day: "Jesus, Meek and Humble of Heart, make our hearts like unto thine."

Something about you few people would know

While some people are bird-watchers, I am a squirrel-watcher. Sometimes I find myself stopping whatever I am doing to watch random squirrels as they climb trees, walk through the yard, or just sit there. They are peculiar animals, to say the least, and they have a knack for tickling my funny bone.

Favorite hobby or pastime

I like to read. In particular, I am a fan of history and theology books, but sometimes I will break out a science fiction or mystery book for lighter reading.

Favorite saint

I would prefer to say that I have a favorite group of saints. I am a big fan of the American saints: Elizabeth Ann Seton, Katharine Drexel, the North American

Martyrs, John Neumann, Francis Cabrini, Theodore Guerin, and Rose Philippine Duchesne (as well as all of the blessed, venerables, and servants of God in the pipeline right now). I am particularly devoted to Katharine Drexel and the Martyrs because I have visited their shrines here in the States and, when I was there, I felt a real connection with them. The American saints are my favorites because they are ours: they lived here; they died here; some were born here. No matter their situation, all of them were able to live holy, saintly lives here on this continent. I can think of no better encouragement, then, for us living here now to become saintly. If they could do it, so can we.

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

A holy moment for me is any time I see people understand that they are coming into personal contact with Christ through the sacraments. Already in my short priesthood there have been many instances when I have seen people receive the Eucharist, confess their sins, or be anointed, and realize that Christ is present with them. Whenever I see that, I know that I am doing what the Lord has called me to do—bring him and his gospel to the world. That is humbling.

What have you learned from your brother priests?

Among all of the priests who have helped form me, I am indebted particularly to two priests: Father Jim Murphy and Msgr. Raymond Wahl. Both inspired and taught me many things. But specifically, from my earli-

est years, Father Murphy taught me through his words and actions to be concerned for the poor. Msgr. Wahl taught me the importance of fostering priestly vocations in the youth and a love of priestly life and service.

Advice for a young person thinking of a vocation

Meet Jesus Christ in a personal way and develop a real, committed relationship with him. That is the only way we can discover the mind and heart of Christ, and what calling he desires for each of us. So, do those things that will bring you face-to-face with Christ: pray from the heart; receive the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation frequently; pray some more; read the Sacred Scriptures; pray even more. Then, when the living God-Man chooses to reveal himself to you, and before even asking him what vocation he has in mind for you, say "yes" to whatever he has planned. At that point, you will be prepared for any vocation, whether it is the priesthood, religious life, or holy marriage.

Favorite temporal things

Gospel music, "Star Trek," and dessert.

Favorite food

I love desserts, especially at holidays. Among the many treats I have eaten or made, there are few things that can compare to my Aunt Jean's chocolate drop cookies or my Aunt Chris' cheesecake. Both are simply delicious and always make my stomach happy.