



Our Men in Black

Father Brian Grady Pastor, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Crystal Lake



Favorite prayer

I have a lot of favorite prayers, such as the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel and the Memorare. But, one prayer that is special to me is one that was composed by St. John Eudes, a 17th Century priest. It was a prayer I learned while attending Marmion in Aurora that was prayed after receiving Holy Communion at the daily Mass. Even after graduation, I would still pray this prayer after receiving every Communion. I still do to this day. It had played such a part in my vocation that I had the prayer printed on the back of my ordination card.

Here is the prayer:

O Jesus, as far as it is possible to me, I cast at Your feet my own mind, my own self-love, my own dispositions and intentions, everything that is mine. I give myself entirely to You; perfect me Yourself and take up Your abode in me, so that it may be You who speak and work in me, according to Your Spirit and Your dispositions and intentions. Amen.

Favorite saint

Wow, that's a tough one! There are so many that I have connections to ... and not enough room to list them all ... but one saint who helped me to get through seminary was St. Thérèse of Lisieux, the Little Flower.

I felt like she "adopted" me as a little brother during that time, watched over me and guided me, and shared some spiritual roses from Heaven during those times when I needed them. I know that she is still there for me to this day ... sending roses when I need them the most.

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

There have been quite a few holy moments in my priesthood that it's really so hard to choose. Each day brings another holy moment. That's one of the exciting things about the priesthood for sure. But, a fairly recent holy moment for me in my priesthood was the Mass I offered last Holy Thursday here at my parish. It was a truly deeply moving, spiritual moment for me ... and one that was made all the more special as I was privileged to celebrate that Mass with the people whom I had been called to serve. I had never celebrated a Holy Thursday Mass quite like that one before.

What have you learned from your brother priests?

Wow, another tough one! Honestly, I have been truly blessed in my life with so many good and holy priests in my life ... each who have taught me so much about what it means to be a priest. I do remember our rector, Msgr. Roeltgen giving us the example of what it truly means to be a spiritual father. But in the spiritual sense of sacrifice, one priest that taught me something

important was our house spiritual director in the seminary, Fr. Gaffney. He taught us that there would be times that as priests that we would have to take upon ourselves the penances and sufferings of our people ... because the priest is called to be a man of sacrifice who like Christ lays down his life for his people.

Advice for young people considering a vocation

You are here for a reason. Our Lord has a special role for you ... and for you alone ... to fulfill His plan for His creation. He has made you special, given you particular gifts and skills to fulfill that role. In accepting that role, you will find joy and fulfillment ... and you will also move forward in becoming the person that God made you to be ... one who is called to be a saint.

Something about you few people would know

I have a mind for useless trivia about lots of different topics.

Favorite hobby or pastime

I enjoy reading, walking, watching movies, great conversation, and spending time with my friends.

Favorite temporal things

"It's A Wonderful Life," "Star Trek," and comic books (though I haven't read too many recently)