



Our Men in Black



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Favorite prayer

The Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours are my favorite. I see them as one prayer. When I was in high school a priest explained that the altar is where the priest most intimately lives out his vocation as another Christ. This struck me as very profound and I believe it was shortly after that that I signed up for the seminary.

Favorite saint

Our Blessed Mother, St. John the Baptist, St. John the Evangelist, St. John Vianney, and St. George. Mary because after my mother passed away I relied much on her help and intercession and all priests must have her close to their hearts. All three St. Johns because they show me how to give oneself completely to Christ yet all did it in quite different ways. St. George because his is my confirmation name and he is patron saint of dragon slayers.

What has been a holy moment for you in your

priesthood?

Burying someone who is younger than me, and informing a family that a loved one has died; they might be complete strangers but at that moment I feel very connected to the family's life and sorrow. It seems to me that only a priest can connect on that intimate level so quickly with a family.

What have you learned from your brother priests?

When I was a seminarian Bishop Doran was addressing all of the seminarians and he told us that a priest's only ambition should be to want to celebrate Mass daily and to hear confessions. I think of St. John Vianney every time I remember it.

Advice for young people considering a vocation

As associate vocation director, I was amazed how many young men in our parishes are discerning a vocation to the priesthood. Yet, for a variety of reasons, many seem afraid to take the step to say yes to our Lord and give themselves completely to Him. For many of them it causes much consternation and anxiety.

When they share this with me I relate to them the story of the rich young man and how he knelt in front of Jesus and asked what he must do to inherit eternal life and how Jesus looked upon him and loved him (Mark 10:17). Anyone reading this and discerning a call to the priesthood should remember that Christ is looking at you with love and he wants you to come and follow Him.

Something about you few people would know

I am professionally trained to ride and show Saddlebred Horses.

Favorite hobby or pastime

I love to swim, read books, and visit with friends.

Favorite temporal things

My favorite sports team is the Chicago Cubs. I enjoy watching movies and it is hard to pick a favorite, though "Man for All Seasons" comes to mind as I write this.