



# Our Men in Black

## **Favorite prayer**

My favorite prayer is the rosary. I have always loved it and prayed it daily (with few exceptions), but when I was on my Seminarian Retreat at Bishop Lane Retreat Center just prior to entering seminary, I prayed the Rosary thanking Our Lady for my vocation, instantaneously I saw a shooting star which looked as if it had landed about a half a block away. I have loved it even more ever since and use it to pray for those who ask for my prayers.

## **Favorite saint**

St. Francis, because of how the Crucifix spoke to him and how much I myself love the symbol of the Crucifix; because of his curious simplicity in life with regards to material wealth; his amazing love, generosity and compassion for the poor and especially for the sick; and because of his extravagant humility and willingness to be humiliated and ridiculed in order to join himself with the sufferings of Christ.

## **Father Brian Olsen** **Parochial Administrator,** **St. Mary, Polo**

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

There have been many holy moments for me as a priest. Most have come while administering the Sacraments, especially the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing. Others have come while sitting before the Holy Eucharist at Adoration in front of the Tabernacle. My most holy moment was in the chapel at St. Bridget in Loves Park days before I went into the seminary and the Lord spoke to my heart with words of forgiveness, telling me to let go of the sins of my past and to follow him.

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

Msrgr. John Mitchell. He taught me to be a firm yet compassionate priest who remembers both the Divinity and the Humanity of Jesus; also, Fr. Donald Wagener. He taught me how to live and how to die with complete Christian dignity.

### **Advice for young people considering a vocation**

I would say if you are really interested in a religious life, you don't necessarily have to be hit over the head



with "a calling", you just have to have a desire in your heart to serve God with your entire life. Then let God start opening the doors and see how far it takes you, but your heart has to be open to what God has in plan and to where he wants to lead you, no matter what that is... and most importantly, if one door shuts, look for the next open door.

### **Favorite temporal things**

Starbucks Coffee, The Rush Limbaugh Show and the Chicago Cubs.

### **Something about you few people would know**

That I am a news junkie.

### **Favorite hobby or pastime**

Watching baseball and boating at Lake Ripley in Wisconsin, where my parents owned a cabin.

### **Favorite food**

I love turkey at each of those holidays, but I don't have a recipe for cooking turkey, you just put it in the pan and turn the oven on, I think.