

Christopher Lankford
Sophomore - St. John Vianney College Seminary
Parish: Notre Dame, Clarendon Hills
Birthday: November 28



I'm the youngest in my family and I live with my mother, Theresa, who is a Registered Nurse for the Illinois Department of Public Health and with my father, Steven, who works as a member of the Technical Services Team, at the Elmhurst Public Library. I also have one older sister named Stephanie. She recently was married to Matthew Gollan and they live in Downers Grove, IL.

I went to Notre Dame School for Pre-K – 8th grade where I became an Altar Server and really started my journey in wanting to be a priest. From there I attended Hinsdale Central High School. In my high school years, I became an Extraordinary Minister, a Minister of Care, helped in the training of new altar servers, and served as Master of Ceremonies for the Easter Triduum.

It was at the Ordination of three new priests that the Holy Spirit really gave my heart a push to try seminary. Seeing it reignited all the feelings and desire to become a priest. Before the Ordination, my mind was pretty much set on going to College of DuPage. When Mass was over, I talked to a friend I met at St. Thomas when I had visited the campus. We got talking about how I never applied and how I thought it was too late. He reminded me, "It is never too late." So I applied and was accepted.

This past year I completed my first year of seminary. Though it was a difficult choice at first, whether or not to try and see if Seminary would be the place for me, I can say it has been the best decision I have ever made and I'm so happy I went. Two of the biggest highlights for me of the year were Spiritual Direction, and the brotherhood I became a part of at the seminary. Being able, every other week, to sit down with a priest and open my heart to the Lord gave me so much grace and strengthened my desire to continue on the journey towards Priesthood. And then having the brothers to talk to and share what's in my heart and having them be a constant support for me really made the year special.

This past summer I worked at the Elmhurst Library as a summertime helper, and continued being an active part of my parish by working part time, as well serving for the Lord at various liturgical events.