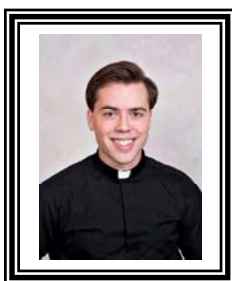


David Mowry
First Theology - Mundelein Seminary
Parish: St. Petronille, Glen Ellyn
Birthday: July 11



I was born in Elmhurst, Illinois, on July 11th, 1987. I am the oldest of three children born to my parents, Keith and Joan. I began elementary school in Maryland, then transferred to St. Petronille School in Glen Ellyn in second grade. St. Petronille has been my home parish ever since, and Glen Ellyn my hometown. I attended Glenbard West High School, graduating in 2005. This year, I completed the plan of formation at St. John Vianney College Seminary and graduated from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota.

In sixth grade, I was encouraged to consider the priesthood when the associate pastor at St. Petronille told me that I would make a good priest. However, I did not seriously contemplate the priesthood until my junior year of high school, after a Jeremiah Day event at Mundelein Seminary. I heard one of the seminarians give his vocation story, and what he said was crucial in convincing me to enter the seminary. The seminarian stated, "If you're not in seminary, you're only discerning about discerning about the priesthood." Convinced that there was no other way I could be sure that God was calling me to the priesthood, I applied to the Diocese of Joliet and St. John Vianney Seminary, and was subsequently accepted.

At St. Petronille Church, I have served as cantor, choir member, and altar server, and I continue in these ministries when at seminary or home on break. I enjoy hearing and performing fine music, particularly the works of Haydn and Handel. For four years, I sang with the University of St. Thomas Concert Choir and Chamber Singers. An academic at heart, my favorite writers include G.K. Chesterton, Fulton Sheen, Peter Kreeft, William Shakespeare, and J.R.R. Tolkien. This past year, I co-led a small group at SJV that examined the works of several Catholic authors and philosophers.

This past summer, I spent six weeks in Mexico for Spanish immersion and worked at St. Dominic's parish in Bolingbrook. In the fall, I will continue formation for the priesthood at Mundelein Seminary.

I am deeply grateful to all those in the Diocese offering prayers for my vocation, and I pray for the continued vigor and well-being of the Diocese of Joliet.