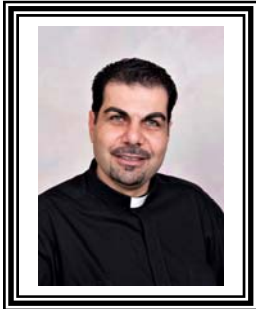


**Raed Bader**  
**Fourth Theology, Mundelein Seminary**  
**Parish: St. James the Apostle, Glen Ellyn**  
**Birthday: May 20**



My name is Raed Bader. I am from Jordan and am now blessed to be studying for the Diocese of Joliet. I have adopted St. James the Apostle in Glen Ellyn as my home parish. I am from a town called Ajloun in the north of Jordan, the home town of the Prophet Elijah. It is called in the Old Testament, Teshba. I was born on May 20, 1971. I am from a Catholic family and the youngest of three brothers and three sisters. My parents are deceased.

My faith has grown because of my Catholic education and being able to help the priest and nuns by working in the church while growing up. They planted in me a great loyalty and love for the Catholic Church. I spent almost all my free time praying and helping at the parish church. All these things have stayed in my heart and mind my whole life. I thank God for these things which helped me to be closer to Him.

After finishing high school, I studied and worked for 8 years as an aircraft technician. In 1997 I decided to earn a degree in philosophy. I traveled to France in order to study philosophy in the French language, because in Jordan they do not teach Christian philosophy in Arabic.

In 2002 I decided to come to the U.S. to start my life just like any immigrant. I worked as a barber for two years in New Jersey. During these two years I built a friendship with two Franciscan friars named Fathers Gregory Gebbia and Robert Zandos. It was the first time I'd met Franciscans. Through this experience with them I felt I was called to the Franciscan life. I joined the order for two years, and then I discerned that I was called to diocesan priesthood. I believe that God worked within me for this decision through my ordinary days and my own devotion to the Eucharist.

As a person of faith, I look forward to being a servant of God's people. We all go through different stages and challenges discerning our vocations in life. After working, studying, living in France, Jerusalem, and the United States, I finally realized that that there is nothing in life that can satisfy a human being but God. I believe that true happiness is possible only with God. The most important thing is to be aware of God's presence and his work in our life. Although I am from a different country, I am blessed to serve the Catholic Church in the United States, because we are one in Christ, We are one in our Faith.