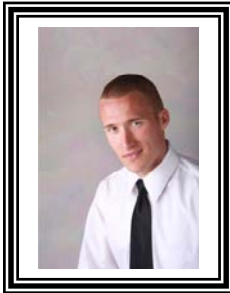


**Thomas Dunn, Jr.**  
**Pre-Theology 1 - St. Meinrad School of Theology**  
**Parish: St. Michael, Wheaton**  
**Birthday: February 20**



I grew up in Wheaton with my parents, Tom and Adele, my older sister, Kate (27), and two younger brothers Bill (22), and Jim (18). I am a parishioner at St. Michael's Parish, Wheaton. Thanks to my loving, hardworking parents, I have been blessed with an overwhelmingly positive upbringing. My parents were unfailing in bringing our family to the Sacraments and Sunday Mass while raising my siblings and me. It is primarily because of their dedication and discipline in the Catholic faith that I am entering the seminary in August.

I went to public schools, kindergarten through college. I graduated from Wheaton North High School in the spring of 2003 and entered Southern Illinois University in the fall. I completed one year at SIU, but due to a lack of direction, returned home to community college. I studied one year at the College of DuPage but felt the constant urging of the Lord to return to SIU. I returned in the fall of 2005. Upon my return, I immediately began attending daily Masses at the Newman Catholic Student Center. Regular attendance of Mass over four years, as well as countless hours hiking the Shawnee National Forest, helped me gain clarity from the Lord of the priestly vocation for which I believe I am being called.

After graduating SIU in Dec. 2007, with a degree in University Studies, I was lucky enough to find employment with my father's carpentry company for about 7 months. During this time I applied, was accepted, and committed to a year of volunteer work for a Catholic affiliated agency called the Bend Volunteer Corps., located in Bend, Oregon. I began my commitment Aug. 1, 2008 and recently finished Aug. 1, 2009. During my time in Bend, I worked a full-time volunteer job at a senior center, assisting the coordination of a Meals-On-Wheels program.

I am eagerly awaiting my first year of study at St. Meinrad's School of Theology in St. Meinrad, Indiana.