



Ryan Adorjan

Sophomore – St. John Vianney College Seminary

Parish: St. Anne, Oswego

Birthday: May 19, 1992

Oh, hello there! My name is Ryan Adorjan and I am 19 years old and I was born at Palos Community Hospital in Palos Heights, Illinois. When I was two, my family and I moved from Crestwood, Illinois to our new house in Oswego. I attend St. Anne Parish in Oswego with my family. I have two awesome parents, Mike and Kim, and a brother, Matt, who is 21. We also have a cat named Data. Her black and white markings make her look like a nun, so she is a sure-fit for our family. I attended Oswego schools since kindergarten and graduated from Oswego High School in 2010.

As I grew up, my Catholic faith and my church life have always been very important. When we moved, my Mom joined the Art and Environment committee setting up for various events and liturgical holidays and celebrations. This is how I really got acquainted with the physical church. By the time I was 8, I had learned where everything was kept in the church and loved spending time in there. At this point, of course, I had no idea why I felt such an attraction to this sacred place. All I knew is that the church was awesome and the priests there were the coolest guys in the world.

God, always encouraging us never to get too comfortable, and our community watched as our church suffered a devastating fire in January of 2000. The church was beyond repair and had to be torn down. By 2003, our new church was built and was dedicated with the motto “From disaster comes a blessing.” This was a major point of conversion for me because it was then that I truly understood what it meant to be a Catholic and be a part of a community of faith. Although our church is beautiful, Fr. Dan, then pastor, dubbed it the “Cathedral of Kendall County,” this experience taught me a basic lesson: I was shown that the church is not the building but the people that populate it. This allowed me to understand that I could make a difference within my church by becoming more than just a member.

In fifth grade, I became an altar server and served with both Bishops Imesch and Sartain. Altar serving truly got me interested in ministry and the Mass. My junior year of high school, I became a lector and the Word of God and my ability to relay it to others became very inspiring.

I have wanted to be a priest since I was seven years old. I would play church at home with family and friends, using Oreos as the Eucharist. While it was fun, subconsciously this always felt like it was more than just a game. The call died down for a few years until my junior year of high school when it came back and I felt the Lord asking and calling me to follow Him. Being the cool high schooler I had become, that was simply not going to happen so I decided to attend North Central College in Naperville to pursue my (other) dream of being a high school English teacher. While at NCC, I started attending Ss. Peter and Paul in Naperville and served the 8pm mass each week. This was God’s way of getting His call through to me once more. I knew it was time to act when, while serving Midnight Mass at Christmas, I distinctly heard someone softly say, “Ryan!” in a tone that was like “Hey you! Wake up!” Mass continued and then I heard it again, this time beckoning me. “Ryan...” This experience pushed me over the edge and, with the support of my family, I contacted Fr. Burke and began attending the discernment meetings. These meetings were very powerful and been invaluable to me and my journey. In March, I visited Conception Seminary College in Missouri and felt very at home in the seminary atmosphere.

I am SO EXCITED (!) to study and prepare for the priesthood with my brothers for the Diocese of Joliet. This summer, I was a tour guide at North Central and professional Lawn Mowist.