



James Olofson

Sophomore – St. John Vianney College Seminary

Parish: St. Walter, Roselle

Birthday: June 7, 1992

Hello, my name is Jim Olofson and I am very grateful and excited to be sharing my story with you. I was born on Pentecost in 1992 (June 7). Growing up, I was raised Catholic and went to Mass every Sunday at St. Walter's Parish in Roselle. I am the oldest of three, with two little sisters who always keep life interesting. My family has been a huge support for me as I began to take a real grasp on my faith. My parents sent me to St. Walter's for grade school and I enjoyed my time there.

My first thoughts of the priesthood came during my junior high years when Fr. Dennis Spies, a newly ordained priest was assigned to St. Walter Parish. He is a great role model for me and he really encouraged me to think about the priesthood. His witness of the priesthood was very inspiring for me and really helped me in my discernment. So with the seed of the vocation planted in the back of my head, I continued on with my life. I attended St. Francis High School in Wheaton, where I continued to grow in my faith. I was very involved at school and always enjoyed doing things there. At St. Walter's, I was able to join the youth ministry program. It was through the youth group that my faith life really grew. I learned that faith was fun and that God wanted to have a personal relationship with me every day, not just for an hour at Mass on Sunday.

Through different retreats, the thought of priesthood kept coming and going. I wanted to talk to someone, but I was terrified of this whole feeling inside of me. The feeling kept on growing and growing, and I knew I could not ignore it. I finally talked it over with my parents and a few of my friends, and the affirmation I received was incredible. I continued to pray, and that feeling only got stronger. And after speaking about it on a KAIROS retreat, I knew that I had to apply. And from the day I was accepted, I have not looked back. My first year at St. John Vianney Seminary was amazing. The seminary gave me a great environment in which to grow spiritually, and the brotherhood helped me tremendously in my pursuit of virtue.

This past summer, I did "Round 2" with the Totus Tuus Program. Working with the youth of the diocese was a great way to spend my summer. I would like to thank everyone for their support and prayers for the seminarians. It means a lot to me to know that I have a wonderful group of people supporting me in this journey. Thank you and God Bless.