

Studying for the priesthood is a joy-filled experience



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When a life dream comes true, it is like the greatest day of a person's life. On July 5, 2007, I received the official "yes" from Archbishop Alfred Hughes that I would be able to begin the next step on my journey of achieving my ultimate goal, the priesthood.

My mother says I have wanted to be a priest since the age of 7. What a long time to have to wait before I could begin "officially" working toward that goal. For several years I had been praying and discerning whether or not the priesthood was where I was called to be, and when I started the application process I knew this was the right place for this time in my life. Even the largest obstacles have seemed like tiny pebbles.

In August 2007 I started taking philosophy classes at Notre Dame Seminary. Even though I had received my degree in political science from Loyola University, I still had to study two years of philosophy. At first I was very down because I wanted to be out in the community serving the people, but over time and through prayer I was able to come to a point of acceptance. I decided that if it was God's will that I become a priest, then it will happen in his time and in his way.

At the seminary I volunteered to take a spot on the Faith Life Committee, which helps shape the spiritual dimension of our community life. I serve as a sacristan in the chapel at the seminary, so I take part in preparing for Mass each day.

Encouraging parishioners

The best part of the entire first year was getting to meet people from parishes around the archdiocese and hearing about their excitement for my journey. Each person I met had the nicest things to say, and the conversation always ended with, "You will be in my prayers." To know that so

many people are praying for us seminarians on a daily basis, and especially that people are praying specifically for me, has been a great motivator in the tough times.

I am definitely grateful to Archbishop Hughes, Father Luis Rodriguez, the vocations director, and all the others involved in the process for

allowing me to study and discern my call to the priesthood. I am most thankful to the many people who have prayed, donated or visited with me during this journey, because they definitely help me remember just why I entered in the first place.

To live this life of sacrifice may be a struggle at times, but

it has been one of the greatest times of my life because the blessings received each day far outweigh the obstacles.

As you go about your day I would ask you all to remember us seminarians in your daily prayers. Also, if you know a seminarian personally, take some time to get to know him better. Invite him

over for dinner, have coffee together or maybe even invite him to Mass at your parish.

Another great way to support seminarians is to adopt one and assist them in any way possible. Please remember me in your prayers. Please feel free to e-mail me with any prayer requests at dhgreen@loyno.edu.

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