



Seminarian Gregory Gray

My name is Gregory Gray, and I was born on April 4, 2005 and raised in Bourbonnais, Illinois as the youngest of eight children. My parents were both faithful Catholics, however, it was a long time before I really took the Catholic faith as my faith.

Growing up, my family attended Sunday Mass at Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (MBVM) and sometimes daily Mass. It was there that I really got the sense that the Catholic faith was important, and praying the rosary at home along with overhearing theological conversations often showed me that the Catholic faith isn't just a small part of our lives, it was our whole life. I began to get involved in the parish around 5th grade as an altar server and continued with that until my sophomore year of high school. I was also involved with Camp MOSH for the past four years MBVM has held it. Despite all of this, I could now intellectually understand the truth of the Catholic faith, but I was never fully invested in it.

This all changed when I went to a conference called One Bread One Cup (OBOC) the summer after my junior year in high school. It was there, praying the rosary, that I could hear God speaking to me, not through my ears but into my soul, and He asked me to follow Him. It was there in that moment that I had the grace to accept the invitation and start living a more practicing Catholic life, but not priesthood. It wasn't until I went to OBOC again and while I was praying the rosary, once again I heard God speaking to me. It was at a reflection the next day that the idea of becoming a priest filled my soul with peace.

Even though I missed the deadline to apply at the University of St. Thomas, I was still able to apply and was accepted in the Fall 2023-2024 school year as a freshman in Propaedeutic 1. There's no place I would rather be and am looking forward to exploring a priestly life more intently. Please keep praying for me and my discernment.