

Getting to Know One of Our Seminararians

Karl Schmidt

St. John Vianney College Seminary



Karl was born in San Angelo, Texas and became the first child of his parents, Steve and Joan. He and his family moved to Brandon in 1994. He has two younger sisters, Margaret and Sarah. He attended Nativity Catholic School and graduated from Durant High School in May 2007 as a member of the Durant Honor Court. He has been involved in many church activities such as being an active Boy Scout up through the sixth grade, and helping with Nativity's Vacation Bible School for several years, and also being active in the Nativity Life Teen group. In his spare time he enjoys playing the guitar, reading, listening to music, and hanging out with his friends. His involvement with Life Teen and his help with the community greatly influenced his calling to the priesthood. He hopes that his calling to the priesthood will allow him to deepen the faith of many through the Sacraments. He is a sophomore at St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami.

A Message from Karl:

Wow, my second year is almost over! It's amazing how fast the year flies by. This year has brought upon me so many amazing but very challenging days in all four of the pillars of formation, which include the academics, pastoral, human, and prayer formation. When this year started, I was very excited knowing that there would be so many good things that would help me learn, grow, and discover, shedding light on me and showing me more on what it means to be a priest. It also felt good not being clueless of what the seminarian lifestyle is like. I also looked forward to meeting the new seminararians and coming back to this peaceful seminary.

Yet I knew there would be many challenges for me to face coming back here which the question, "will I be able to handle this formation" dwelled in my mind. Yet with an open heart and trust in God, it surprises me to see that I handled it really well looking at where I am today. Working hard through the pastoral, academic and human pillars were scary for me at first, for example through the pastoral: while teaching CCD for the first time in my life, I realized how fun teaching a class sometimes is. In academia I found myself getting through those rough times with the help of making better time for things. For the human formation I made it a goal to know myself a little more and branch out, therefore becoming more outgoing. Yet thanks to the growth in my prayer life, I have been able to be comfortable in my growth in all the pillars knowing that God is always with me in my struggles and that there is a good that comes from the tough times in life. Trust in God and through His love He will give you the strength to make it through. Formation at the seminary never stops, it is always there to help us grow and become a better public person in preparation to the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

Among all the growth that I have been going through this year I also enjoyed going as a seminary community to two different Catholic rites, the Syro-Malabar rite, which one of our spiritual directors from India celebrated for us at the seminary, and the Maronite rite, which one of the priests who teaches us, celebrated at the parish Our Lady of Lebanon. It was an awesome experience for me seeing a Catholic Mass celebrated in two different ways. It is such a blessing and joy to be part of the seminary and grow in deepening our love of Christ who we are to imitate and bring hope to the world.

Thank you for your prayers as you are in mine.

God Bless,

Karl