

# Tuesday testimonials

On the first Tuesday after All Saints Day, November 1, we launched a new series, “Tuesday Testimonials.” We asked our seminarians to write about a particular way the Lord has worked in their life and/or how He has led them to Mount St. Mary’s Seminary & School of Theology.



TUESDAY TESTIMONIAL

NOVEMBER 2, 2021

David Homoele  
I Theology  
Archdiocese of Cincinnati

The call to the priesthood has always been in the back of my mind. I do not remember a time where I did not think about what it would be like to be a priest. The priest seemed to me like the coolest person ever, because they got to serve people and lived a life dedicated entirely to God. I wanted to do that too.

I went to Saint Xavier High School and wanted to become a Jesuit after my senior year of high school. My vocation director suggested I gain more experience in the world and go to college first to discern my calling so I went to Bowling Green State University near Toledo, Ohio.

While in college, I went on a discernment retreat with the Diocese of Toledo for men discerning the priesthood. That retreat changed my whole view of my vocation. I now felt a call to the diocesan priesthood,

primarily for its variety and closeness to the people.

I continued to talk to my vocation director and still felt this new strong call to the diocesan priesthood and a lessening call to the Jesuits. Having made my decision, I felt a great sense of peace. I finished my time at Bowling Green State University and entered Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology and am currently in I Theology.

My view of the priesthood has definitely matured in my time here and I now have no illusions that my life as a priest will be filled with only elation and joy as I once may have or that everything will be easy, but will also involve hardships and mortifications. This is true for any vocation though, so this has not discouraged me from the call. I still feel that this is where God wants me to be and will continue to discern my vocation.



TUESDAY TESTIMONIAL

NOVEMBER 9, 2021

Rev. Mr. Leonardo Morales  
IV Theology  
Diocese of Tulsa

A vocation is a call from God. Discovering my vocation was possible because of prayer and the support and prayers of my family and friends. Now I know that my vocation is to be a priest. I have a great love for God and His Church. Throughout my many years in the Seminary, it has been clear that God has been a source of encouragement to me. The first couple of years were uncertain and difficult.

My journey started in Mexico, and then I came to the United States of America. During those first years in Mexico, my faith developed into a deeper relationship with God. During those years, I was comparing myself with other people, particularly those my age. Then I realized it was not about me, but about God's plan for me.

As a priest, I look forward to sharing the joys and sorrows of people's lives. I left my

home, family and friends to study for the priesthood, but I have embraced a bigger family - the people of God.

My goal is to bring God, His tenderness, and mercy to the people. By doing so, people will experience the redemptive power that only God can give. I expect to encounter many parishioners wounded and hurt not only by sin but also by the evil in the world. However, I know that there is nothing impossible for God. He is the only one capable of bringing peace into people's hearts.

And one of the ways to cure pain and suffering is by building up a strong relationship with God, our savior. He knows what we need, and He is always waiting for us to come back to Him.



TUESDAY TESTIMONIAL

NOVEMBER 16, 2021

Stephen Hughes  
III Theology  
Archdiocese of Cincinnati

My vocation begins with my time as an altar server. My brothers and I would serve together. At first I thought it was a great way to avoid sitting around in the pews, it was much more interesting being right up by the sanctuary where the action was. Serving also taught me the parts of the Mass and their importance.

I continued to serve in college and began to think more about my Faith and what part of my life it would have. College introduced me to a great community of Catholics my age who would help me answer that question. I started to attend daily Mass. Those times are when I began to appreciate the role of the priest in the community as well. I saw there was much more to it than what I saw on Sundays as a child. I began to see myself living and serving as a priest.

I attended several discernment retreats in

college but was still unsure if I had a calling to the priesthood. I decided to wait until after graduation and working to see if perhaps I would find life outside of school an affirmation of the priesthood or not.

After a year working and living on my own I continued to have the priesthood on my mind. Often it was the preeminent thought on my mind as I can home from work. It was a thought that I just couldn't shake. I resolved to contact the vocations director and begin a more active discernment and went on visits to the seminary and retreats. That's when I decided to enter seminary and see if the priesthood was for me. God has continued to affirm my choice to come to seminary and learn more deeply about Him and how I can serve His Church.



TUESDAY TESTIMONIAL

NOVEMBER 23, 2021

Ryan Timossi  
III Theology  
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

A particular episode of how the Lord has worked in my journey as a seminarian is the following. A couple of years ago I read a biography on the life of St. Gemma Galgani, an Italian mystic and stigmatist who lived at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century. I was struck by the fact that her brother, a seminarian, died before becoming a priest. He happened to die on my birthday, September 11. I thought to myself, “Maybe I can make a deal with St. Gemma, if she helps me through seminary with her intercession, I will be like the ‘brother priest’ she never had.” I have often turned to her during the difficulties of seminary life.

This past summer a seminarian had the opportunity to visit Rome. While there, he acquired three different relics, one of St. Maria Goretti, one of St. Paul of the Cross and one of St. Gemma Galgani. The priest

who gave him the relics told him if he felt inspired to give them away, he should. This seminarian having the least amount of knowledge about St. Gemma Galgani decided that was the relic he would find a new home for. He asked around the seminary community and got word of my particular devotion. The first-class relic ex corpore of St. Gemma found its new home in my humble seminarian dwelling.

We are all alive and united through Christ in a very real and beautiful way. I am grateful for the intercession of St. Gemma and of all the saints of whom I am not aware who have helped me with their prayers on my journey towards fulfilling what I believe to be the will of God.



TUESDAY TESTIMONIAL

NOVEMBER 30, 2021

Adam Lewis  
II Theology  
Archdiocese of Cincinnati

In many ways, the Lord God led me to the seminary through the community. The people of God saw my desires before I could clearly see them. They nudged me along to explore the possibility of a religious / priestly vocation.

Particularly the Lord used my dad, however, to call me to the seminary. One day at a high school basketball game I asked him what he thought about my ongoing discernment to be a priest.

His words were graced by the Holy Spirit, “The Lord isn’t looking for Jesse’s eldest son but the one who has a heart for the ways of the Lord. He is the man he desires to anoint.”

He put to rest my fears of inadequacy and I was cut to the heart, knowing that I needed to apply to the seminary... now I’m in my fourth year at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary & School of Theology.

Those fears are still part of the daily battle but I’m confident that I’m growing into the man I was created to be. A man close to the Heart of Our Lord and the pure heart of Mary.



TUESDAY TESTIMONIAL

DECEMBER 7, 2021

Peter Rusciollelli  
III Theology  
Diocese of Charlotte



TUESDAY TESTIMONIAL

JANUARY 11, 2022

Kevin McGraw  
II Theology  
Diocese of Toledo



TUESDAY TESTIMONIAL

JANUARY 18, 2022

Luke Martin  
I Theology  
Diocese of Charlotte