

## **Riley Durkin**

St. Stephen's Catholic Church, Larimore, ND

I was born in Grand Forks, North Dakota and raised in Inkster. I spent my formative years going to church in Larimore, ND but went to school at Midway High School. I graduated from there in 2011 and went on the next summer to teach vacation bible school in the Diocese of Winona, MN. It was there that I started to seriously consider my call to the priesthood. That fall I enrolled at NDSU studying Broadcast Journalism and Political Science. While I really enjoyed my studies, I knew God was calling me to something different. In April of 2012, I turned in my application and was accepted as a seminarian in June.

**Do your family and friends think it is a good idea that you're considering becoming a priest?** *They are very supportive and want nothing more than for me to be happy.*

**Do you ever have any fun? What do you do in your free time?** *Being in the cultural hub of Detroit, there is always something going on. Some days I enjoy just going for a drive to clear my head and explore the city.*

**If you were not a priest, what do you think you would be?** *I would definitely finish my Broadcasting degree and work in the media.*

**How many brothers and sisters do you have?** *I have one younger sister and one younger brother.*

**What is your favorite TV program?** *I don't watch a lot of TV, but when I do like to make a point to watch the news and keep up with current events.*

**What is your favorite singer or music group?** *I'm not picky about my music tastes. I will listen to whatever is on the radio.*

**Do you ever get bored while studying to be a priest?** *Very often. That is usually fixed pretty quickly however, as there is always something I should be doing.*

**What do you enjoy the most while studying to be a priest?** *I enjoy the support I get from all the other men around me. In my hall we have a DJ, a reporter, a computer programmer, and even a doctor and a lawyer! But we are all going down the same path with the same goal in mind.*

**Who helped you decide to become a priest?** *My former pastor, Fr. Jim Goodwin, provided an excellent example of the priesthood as well as a much needed nudge in the right direction. He is still very encouraging to me.*

**What do you think the best thing will be about being a priest?** *Celebrating the sacraments and being a much needed light to the world.*

**What is your favorite quote or saying?** *I think this also would double as my favorite Bible verse. Mine is Matt. 21:22 "Whatever you ask for in prayer, with faith, you will receive."*

**What is one other thing you would like to tell people about yourself?** *I would say that I really enjoy cooking and baking, as well as spending time with loved ones.*