

## **Jered Grossman**

St. Cecilia's Catholic Church, Harvey

My name is Jered Grossman. I was born in Harvey, North Dakota in 1973. I grew up as a member of St. Cecilia's Catholic Church. In 1989 I attended a live-in weekend at Cardinal Muench Seminary but it didn't feel right at that time. I graduated from Harvey High School in 1991. I attended the University of Mary for a year and a half before returning to Harvey to work. In 1998, at the age of 25, I moved to Bismarck to be a home improvement retail manager which I was until 2006, when I moved to Colorado to pursue a relationship. After a year I returned home to North Dakota and moved to Napoleon. I lived and worked there as the yard manager of Napoleon Livestock for five years. I thank the Lord often for the experiences I had over all of these past years. I learned about life and love in very beautiful ways. Although I was happy in my adult life, I never felt fulfilled. I thought that fulfillment would come from being married and having a family. All of my life I can recall feeling a romance for the Church, but I let my humanness get in the way of that, and looked for fulfillment on my own terms. After about three years in Napoleon, the Lord revealed to me that He did want me to be married and have a family. I felt His call to be married to the Church and to be a father to His people.

**Do your family and friends think it is a good idea that you're becoming a priest?** *My family and friends are very supportive of my answering the call of our Lord. They have been there for me throughout my life and many of them were not surprised at my decision to enter the seminary. I feel truly blessed to have such a wonderful family and supportive friends.*

**Do you ever have any fun? What do you do in your free time?** *Mostly, I love being with people. Spending time with my family and friends is a beautiful expression of God's love. I also love spending time with my horses. There is no greater perspective of the country than from the back of a horse. I would say that my favorite hobby is Astronomy. I feel the time I spend looking through my telescope is a beautiful form of prayer as I wonder at God's creation and feel a communion with Him.*

**If you were not a priest, what do you think you would be?** *I really enjoy being outside, so knowing what I know now, it would be some form of ranching and/or farming. If I would have been born 150 years ago, I would have loved to have been a cowboy.*

**How many brothers and sisters do you have?** *I am blessed to have one older brother and one older sister.*

**What is your favorite TV program?** *I would say Duck Dynasty; it really makes me feel like home makes me feel.*

**Who is your favorite singer or music group?** *I LOVE music, so this one is tough. I have 10,000 songs on my ipod...I guess my favorite group of all time is Journey. I listen to music often and have a broad range of genres that I like. I feel that music is a gift from God as a form of inspiration, clarification, and reciprocation.*

**Do you ever get bored while studying to be a priest?** *Seminary is never boring. There are many things to do for school and in the way of formation and entertainment.*

**How is a seminary different than a regular school?** *To me, there is a beautiful feeling of purpose and brotherhood in the seminary. In regular school it often becomes a competition. In the seminary we are all here for the same reason and feel a genuine desire to help each other get there. Ultimately it is about the relationship between those who are here and our Lord.*

**How often do you see your family?** *I see my family over the summer and over Christmas break. Though they are not here with me physically, I hold them in my heart as a source of inspiration, strength and purpose.*

**What do you enjoy most while studying to be a priest?** *I enjoy the personal revelation that I experience through daily Holy Hours, the knowledge acquired through classroom work, and wisdom that comes from being open to formation.*

**Who helped you decide to become a priest?** *The greatest influences in my discernment to the priesthood were: Fr. Roman G. Neva, Fr. Michael Hickin, Fr. Ross Laframboise, and Fr. Scott Sautner. There appears to be a theme here.....*

**What do you think the best thing will be about being a priest?** *Being able to serve the people I will love in the beautiful, merciful grace of our Lord, and sharing in that reciprocal love with Him.*

**What is your favorite quote or saying?** *"Simon, the fisherman, before his meeting with Christ, however thoroughly he might have searched himself, could not possibly have found a trace of Peter." - Hans Urs von Balthasar*

*Who we are is a gift from God, who we become, is our gift to Him.*

**What is one other thing you would like to tell people about yourself?** *I have lived in this world for 40 years now. I have seen and done many things in that time. As I write this, I am reminded of how it all lead me here, on this beautiful journey with my Lord. The longing I always felt is finding fruit here in this place. Though I have a long journey ahead, I take each step in faith, knowing that He is right there with me. We will continue to walk*

*this path together, as he leads me where He would have me be, introduce me to the people  
He would have me serve, and share in the Love that comes from such a beautiful gift.*