

Zach Howick

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My name is Zach Howick. I was born in 1990 in Grand Forks, but I moved around a lot growing up with my father's work. We've lived in East Grand Forks, the Detroit Lakes area, Grafton, Crookston, Alexandria, and lastly Billings, Montana. I was born Lutheran but joined the church, after a long period of waiting, in 2008. I graduated from Billings Central Catholic High School in 2009, I studied as a seminarian for the Diocese of Great Falls/Billings for them for three years. During that time I realized God was calling me home to North Dakota. I asked in May of 2012 to transfer from the Diocese of Great Falls/Billings to the Diocese of Fargo. I was accepted by the Diocese of Fargo in May of that year. I then moved back to Grand Forks that summer and joined Holy Family Catholic Church. It has been my greatest joy to live in North Dakota again and especially Grand Forks. The Diocese sent me to Sacred Heart Major Seminary to finish my college studies. I am now studying theology at St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver, Colorado. Every day I fall more and more in love with Him and every day I fall in love in a deeper way with my vocation to priesthood.

Do your family and friends think it is a good idea that you're becoming a priest? *I have the support of my family.*

Do you ever have any fun? What do you do in your free time? *My favorite hobbies are target shooting, fishing, and reading. In school I do a lot of reading both in studying and for fun. I also love watching movies which I spend a lot of my free time doing.*

If you were not a priest, what do you think you would be? *I would want to be a lawyer with an emphasis in business law.*

How many brothers and sisters do you have? *I have three older sisters and one older brother.*

What is your favorite TV program? *I like MASH, The Rockford Files, J.A.G., and NCIS.*

Do you ever get bored while studying to be a priest? *There are times when I have my work done and I don't know what to do (this is very rare). In general though there is something that always needs to be done so there isn't a whole lot of time to get bored.*

How is a seminary different than a regular school? *I think seminary is way different than a normal college. First the men around you, both your brother seminarians and the faculty, want you to succeed and want to help you. The formation staff tries to help you grow as an individual and to help you know yourself. The end goal is for you to become the Man God is calling you to be. I think in a normal college the school doesn't really care what you do, who you become, or if you succeed.*

How often do you see your family? *I saw my family more so at the previous seminaries because of the distance. This year, however, my pastor, Fr. Phil Ackerman, and a good priest friend of his, Fr. Dave Fisher, visited me multiple times in the seminary. I don't see my family very often now, but I do talk to my family at least once a week.*

What do you enjoy most while studying to be a priest? *I enjoy the life. I am surrounded every day with good and holy men, both priests and seminarians, who are actively pursuing to know God and what God wants them to do with their life. These same men give me great examples of holiness and a lot of opportunity to see God.*

What do you think the best thing will be about being a priest? *Celebrating the Holy Mass is the thing I look forward to the most. In a more general way I believe the priesthood is a life of service and sacrifice to God and can't wait to give my entire life in that service. There isn't one thing that a priest does that I am not excited for.*

What is your favorite quote or saying? *"Totus Tuus" which is the motto of Blessed John Paul the Great. In English it translates to Totally Yours. Another one is all things to Jesus through Mary.*

What is one other thing you would like to tell people about yourself? *I laugh a lot, so no matter what topic we speak of, I will chuckle at the very least.*