

**Ethan Kaste**

St. John the Evangelist, Grafton, ND

Ethan was born in Grand Forks and grew up in Grafton. His faith started to come alive after he attended a Steubenville North Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota. Upon getting to know friends and experiencing a relationship with the Lord on a deeper level through his friends, he joined NET (National Evangelization Team) Ministries after graduating from Grafton High School. Instead of traveling around the country like most teams, he stayed at a parish with a team for nine months in Hastings, Minnesota to help build up the youth ministry program. After serving two consecutive years on NET, he attended school at the University of Mary for two years in Bismarck where the Lord started to cultivate in him a passion for service through the priesthood. Ethan enjoys running, spending time at the lake, ultimate Frisbee, mom made food, and, quote, “wasting a ‘little’ bit of time playing video games”.

**Do your family and friends think it is a good idea that you’re becoming a priest?** My family is very supportive; it’s a beautiful growing process not just for me but for them as well. Most of my friends are overjoyed, but some have brought up the question, “...but, don’t you want to be a dad?” Of course I would love that, but I am in the seminary to find out what that means. Who knows, the very fact that I would be a good father could be the reason that would make me a good priest.

**Do you ever have any fun? What do you do in your free time?** I have found myself reading a lot more, which is something that I am glad that I am starting to enjoy. I love going out with friends whether it’s the lake, food, ultimate Frisbee or whatever. I have always been open to trying different things.

**If you were not a priest, what do you think you would be?** I was studying Psychology at the University of Mary before I joined the

seminary, so I think I would probably be working in some form of Pediatric Psychology and I defiantly would have a family.

**How many brothers and sisters do you have?** I have two older brothers, the oldest is Kory who is married to Kaja and they have three kids, Gracin (5), Nolan (4), and Isla (3) and live in Wahpeton. The other, Branden, lives in Fargo and he works as an Engineer for John Deere. My parents are Shane and Margaret, and they live in Grafton where my dad works as a Parts Salesman for Case IH and my mother as a Daycare Provider.

**What is your favorite TV program?** I don’t watch TV that much but when I do, it’s the “Walking Dead” series, which is a definite favorite for me. I also really enjoy the “Once Upon A Time” series.

**Who is your favorite singer or music group?** Depends on what mood I am in. If I’m going for the 80’s, I’m a “Journey” fan, but I like 90’s music the most.

**Do you ever get bored while studying to be a priest?**  
Unfortunately, yes

**How is a seminary different than a regular school? How often do you see your family?** Since I am 9 hours away from home I don’t get to see them much except the occasional phone call, so when it comes to being able to see your family it has not been too different for me. The biggest difference is the daily schedule. At a typical university a persons’ schedule is a lot freer, but since we have a pretty filled schedule each day, we have priorities such as: formation, schooling, and prayer. These priorities demand for an intentional schedule.

**What do you enjoy most while studying to be a priest?** The disciplined life style. It is not easy to push yourself, as anyone knows. But the fruits lead to a freedom where I don’t have to be

controlled by my lazy desires in life, over time I will get the freedom to desire doing the right things more often.

**Who helped you decide to become a priest?** I guess seeing the example of my friends excelling in their lives, seeing my friends answer their callings in life has encouraged me to continually pray about my vocation. Also, there is a priest at Diocese of Bismarck that helped me understand what the Lord was saying in my prayer while I was at the University of Mary.

**What do you think the best thing will be about being a priest?** Wow, too many things, I would have to say the lifestyle in general. For any vocation we get the chance to give our whole selves to Christ, it also feels like we are fully able to because we are doing what the Lord has made us to do, so for a parent to sacrifice their desires for the sake of their children, a priest's life is somewhat the same. They are on call 24/7 ready to distribute the sacraments to anyone. This is exciting for me; I think it is a tangible and practical way to be able to serve.

**What is your favorite quote or saying?** I don't really have one but if I had to pick one for right now, I would have to say that there is a poem called "Anyway" that was modified by Mother Theresa. There is one line that I really enjoy. "If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway".

**What is one other thing you would like to tell people about yourself?** Pray for me. I am excited to be able to serve this diocese and I grow more eager every day to serve you all.