

## **Andrew Meyer**

### **St. John the Evangelist, Wahpeton, ND**

**Biography:** I was born in 1995 to Mark and Muffy Meyer of Wahpeton, ND, where I have lived my whole life. At an early age, my parents made the decision to begin homeschooling me and my brothers. I graduated in 2013, and entered college at the University of Mary, earning Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Philosophy while concurrently serving as the Liturgy Coordinator/Sacristan for the St. John Paul II Center for University Ministry. Also during this time, I was privileged to visit Rome and the Holy Land with UMary's study abroad programs. I graduated in Spring 2017 and now here I am!

**Do your family and friends think it is a good idea that you're becoming a priest?** Yes, I have had great support from family and friends.

**Do you ever have any fun? What do you do in your free time?** That question sounds like I'm in a horribly desperate state! Absolutely I have fun. I have a giant range of hobbies that I can decide to entertain myself with. I'm an avid fisherman and outdoorsman. I also love sports, from frisbee to soccer to football or whatever. I love geology (particularly hydrothermal geology), history, manufacturing and fabricating knick-knacks like lightsabers and chainmail shirts, hunting, eating good food, spending quality time with people, studying Church architecture (the good kind), reading theology and philosophy, playing chess, and a few other things.

**If you were not a priest, what do you think you would be?** I could do a number of things- I have a lot of hobbies that I could see myself turning into a career.

**How many brothers and sisters do you have?** I am the oldest of three boys.

**What is your favorite TV program?** Gold Rush on Discovery Channel- I love the fact that one of the mining crews is not afraid to show they are faithful Christians, and they seem to be genuine and decent people.

**Who is your favorite singer or music group?** I don't really have a particular favorite, honestly. Depends on my mood and what I'm doing. I'll listen to a lot of genres -except rap. Rap is terrible.

**Do you ever get bored while studying to be a priest?** Not really, but sometimes being a little bored is good for the soul because it takes away the urge for incessant activity.

**How is a seminary different than a regular school? How often do you see your family?** Seminary is different than a regular school in that academics, while they play a very important role, are of much less significance compared to spiritual and human formation. It is busy, and generally you are spending a lot of time doing various things- from Holy Hours, to meetings or seminars, to class, to socials. It is not meant to give you a special emphasis of study, like a normal school. Rather, it gives you tools to discern and carry out your vocation.

I see my family from time to time- much like anybody who studies at a school a good distance from home, I see them at breaks and holidays.

**What do you enjoy most while studying to be a priest?** Definitely not the studying! The formation and prayer is good- it's what I came to seminary for and there is a good balance of it.

**Who helped you decide to become a priest?** Many people. I had a lot of great priests over the years in Wahpeton- Fr. Dale Lagodinski, Fr. Luke Meyer, Fr. Wenceslaus Katanga, Fr. Terry Dodge, Fr. Chris Markman, Fr. Greg Haman, and Fr. Patrick Parks- not to mention some great priests at UMary- Monsignor James Shea, Fr. Robert Shea, and Fr. Josh Waltz- who encouraged me to try seminary. They gave me a daily example of holiness. My parents also gave me a great Catholic education and love of the faith, giving me a solid backbone.

**What do you think the best thing will be about being a priest?** Celebrating the sacraments.

**What is your favorite quote or saying?** “Lax people follow their feelings rather than principles, the world rather than the gospel.” I just heard it recently from the house spiritual director, Fr. John Dietrich. In a post-modern world that lives for what feels good, it hits the nail on the head. Feelings can get people and the whole world into trouble, and if it’s what you follow rather than what is logical, socialism and other bad things happen.

**What is one other thing you would like to tell people about yourself?** I am a very outgoing person, have a good sense of humor, and love doing stuff. I can also be blunt.