

Jayson Miller

St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, MN

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Devils Lake

I grew up on a farm near the small North Dakota town of Lawton. My four siblings and I were schooled at home and I graduated high school in 2006. During high school I enjoyed playing baseball and basketball and in the fall and spring helping on the family farm. During my sophomore year at NDSU I began to seriously consider the priesthood. After attending a Live-in Weekend at Cardinal Muench Seminary, I decided to apply and spent the next two and a half years at CMS. I then took two years out of seminary formation and served as a FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) missionary at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Returning to seminary formation this fall, I am now at St. Paul Seminary studying theology.

Do your family and friends think it is a good idea that you're becoming a priest? *Yes, they have been very supportive!*

Do you ever have any fun? What do you do in your free time? *I love to have fun! I enjoy playing most sports, swimming, and reading for leisure.*

If you were not a priest, what do you think you would be? *I would probably play Major League Baseball. ☺*

How many brothers and sisters do you have? *I have three older sisters and a younger brother, who is also in seminary.*

What is your favorite TV program? *I usually don't watch TV, but when I do it is most likely a Vikings football game or Twins baseball game.*

Who is your favorite singer or music group? *As a fan of country music, I am getting into the Zac Brown Band.*

Do you ever get bored while studying to be a priest? *Never! There is always plenty to do.*

How is a seminary different than a regular school? *For one thing, it's all men! But to be serious, seminary studies focus on many important aspects of what it takes to be a priest, with school as part of that. Classes also teach on the spiritual, human, and pastoral traits of priesthood.*

How often do you see your family? *Because of the intensity of the schedule, we don't have as much free time to visit family, but I still see my family at least two or three times per semester.*

What do you enjoy most while studying to be a priest? *Knowing that I am preparing myself to serve Christ and His Church and become a saint!*

Who helped you decide to become a priest? *Father Eric Nielsen, who was my pastor at St. Paul's Catholic University Center in Madison, Wisconsin, helped me in many ways to discern what God is calling me to do.*

What do you think the best thing will be about being a priest? *I believe the high point of the priesthood is celebrating the Mass and other Sacraments.*

What is your favorite quote or saying? *"Esto Vir!" "Be a Man!"*

What is one other thing you would like to tell people about yourself? *I am far from perfect but am thrilled that God is overlooking my many sins and weaknesses to give me the privilege of being a priest. Please pray for me that I can become a holy, humble, and pure priest. And please pray for more vocations!*