



Dear Friends of Vocations,

I am writing to you with deep gratitude and hope as I prepare to begin the next stage of my formation for the priesthood at St. Mary's Seminary this fall. My path to seminary has been anything but ordinary, yet God has faithfully led me to this calling throughout my life.

I grew up in a loving Catholic family in Oxford, Ohio. Although I questioned aspects of my faith as I grew older, I never lost it. Serving in my parish choir and participating in mission trips to Camden, New Jersey, helped me discover that faith is lived not only at Mass, but also through serving others.

I attended Miami University, where I studied philosophy and political science. During college, I asked God what He wanted me to do with my life. I felt drawn toward either the priesthood or a career of public service. Believing I could make a difference through public service, I chose that path.

After graduation, I spent many years working on political campaigns and later in public affairs, helping build teams and serve communities. While the work was meaningful, it was also demanding. In 2024, after experiencing a stress-induced seizure, I was forced to step away and reevaluate my life.

During that time, God came knocking again. I had a vivid dream of serving as a priest in a hospital, ministering to someone who was sick. That dream stayed with me and led me into deeper prayer. The more I prayed, the stronger I felt God's invitation to consider the priesthood.

Through conversations with my parish priest, seminarians, and the vocation directors, especially after attending a St. Andrew's Dinner at the Basilica, I found the clarity and encouragement I needed to apply to seminary.

This past year, I began my formation in the propaedeutic stage while living and serving at the Basilica alongside the Source of All Hope missionaries. It has been the most grace-filled year of my life. Walking with the poor, praying with those who are suffering, and accompanying people in their faith journeys has transformed my understanding of both the Gospel and the priesthood. These experiences have strengthened my conviction that God is calling me to serve His Church as a priest.

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As I prepare to enter major seminary, I do so with both excitement and humility. I am deeply grateful that the Archdiocese invests in the formation of men like me, preparing us to faithfully serve God's people.

I ask for your support in this mission of forming future priests. Your financial generosity, and most importantly, your prayers, make it possible for seminarians to receive the formation needed to become faithful, compassionate priests. If you've already made a gift in support of Vocations this year, thank you for your generosity and faithful support. If not, I hope you'll prayerfully consider making a gift today. Please know that you are part of this journey with me. I will be praying for you, and I humbly ask you to pray for me as well.

Thank you for your generosity and for supporting vocations in our Church.

In Christ,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Otto'.

Daniel Otto