



CONNOR QUICK

Seminary

St. Francis de Sales Seminary
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Year

Discipleship III

Parish

St. Patrick Parish,
Menasha

Birthday

June 6

Contact

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What is the best type of ice cream?

That would be coffee ice cream. It's all the joy of a good cup of coffee with the added enjoyment of a creamy frozen dessert.

What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

I believe that my greatest personal victory has been my own growth in the confidence that I hear the Lord speaking to me.

What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

The first thing that my parents tried to teach me about Jesus was that I was loved by Him. They knew, as well as many others, that despite the ease in which we say, "I know God loves me," we can often feel and act as if that's not true. But if we allow ourselves to be transformed by His love, we have everything.

How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

Something very exciting to celebrate the Jubilee Year was making a pilgrimage down to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Our Lady of Guadalupe has been a devotion of mine for about five years now since I made my first consecration on her feast day. What a gift it was to visit the site of the apparition as well as see St. Juan Diego's tilma right there in front of me. If this were not amazing enough, we even got to serve Mass at the main altar just feet below the tilma.

What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

A verse from Paul that I've been reflecting on an awful lot as of late is that of Galatians 2:20: "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." In this verse, St. Paul powerfully articulates his dying to self and his taking on of Christ. I'm deeply moved by this image of putting away the old self, but also of Christ as that which "lives" in Paul's heart and soul. Christ tells us that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Consequently, to truly live is to allow ourselves to be changed and transformed by our encounter with the living person of Jesus. To allow Christ to live in us is to surrender our will, abandon ourselves

fully to His love and mercy, and embrace the new life He offers. This daily surrender is both a challenge and a profound gift.

Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

The virtue which I most desire to emulate of the great St. Paul is that of his gratitude. It is a disposition which St. Paul embodies very frequently throughout his epistles. Often, he thanks God for the people that he is ministering to (Phil 1:3-4), for His own calling (1 Tim 1:12), and even for his weaknesses and sufferings (2 Cor 12:9-10). St. Paul's gratitude is remarkable because it persists even amid trials and challenges, showing how deeply rooted his faith and trust in God were.

In a book I read this last year by Dietrich Von Hildebrand, there was a quote that said, "The person... permeated... by [an] attitude of gratitude, is the only person who is truly awake." Gratitude is a recognition that every second of every moment of every day is a gift. It is this awareness that so permits a soul to be "awake" to all the gifts that God is showering upon it.

Further, a grateful soul is one that is joyful. Von Hildebrand suggests just the same when he asserts, "The essence of gratitude is joy." Indeed, gratitude opens the heart to receive God's blessings fully and helps overcome discouragement by focusing on the goodness already present in our lives. To cultivate gratitude like St. Paul is to cultivate a spirit of humility, dependence on God, and a joyful awakening to divine love.

Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

St. Elizabeth of the Trinity. Since she began "following" me last November, this Carmelite has transformed my prayer life and deepened my experience of God's abundant love.