



# MICHAEL JANCZAKOWSKI

## Seminary

St. Francis de Sales Seminary  
3257 S. Lake Drive  
St. Francis, WI 53235-3702

## Year

Configuration II

## Birthday

June 18

## Parish

St. John the Baptist Parish,  
Howard

## Contact

[mjanczakowski@aol.com](mailto:mjanczakowski@aol.com)

## What is the best type of ice cream?

Mackinac Island Fudge. I had it once, and it was delicious.

## What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

There is a rocky prominence in the Santa Catalina Mountains outside of Tucson called Finger Rock. I have twice summited the rock next to it ("the Guard"), and it is cool to look at it and think, "I've been there."

## What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

My earliest memory of engaging the faith was reading a Children's Bible when I was young. It was one of those cardboard books. I especially liked the stories about Noah and Samson. Later, my first memory of encountering Jesus was around age 10 when my family happened upon *The Passion of the Christ* on TV. It occurred to me that Jesus was real and not just a character in a story.

## How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

I made a pilgrimage to Rome with my aunt in March. We passed through the Holy Doors at each of the four papal basilicas, and we also went to Assisi. I had a particularly graced time in Assisi including confession, Mass before the San Damiano cross, and time to pray with the saints who are there. We even saw Francis and Clare's habits which are preserved at St. Clare Basilica. Seeing the traces of their lives helped spark hope in my own journey towards heaven.

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

Romans 12:9-21 is a passage to which I like to return. It is such a direct and succinct portrait of what our life is supposed to look like as Christians. "Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good." "Anticipate one another in showing honor." "Do not repay evil for evil ... Conquer evil with good."

I am especially drawn to Verse 16, "Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation." This line makes me think of the many people I have met in

my life: some are polished, others are messy; some you agree with, others you don't. All of them have been a gift to me in some way, and it takes humility to unpack that gift. It takes a willingness to admit that I am kind of a mess too, and that indeed the Lord is working through each of these people to fashion me as He desires.

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

When I read St. Paul, I am struck by his boldness. He possessed such a willingness to proclaim the Gospel at all costs, enduring every sort of trial and persecution (2 Cor 11:22-29). This character trait, of course, followed him from his earliest days (Gal 1:14) and sometimes brought him into conflict with his Christian brothers (Gal 2:11-14). Boldness was a core element of Paul's personality, and if not for his exercise of it, the Gospel would not have spread as far as it did.

There is a certain irony here insofar as St. Paul's original namesake, King Saul, was critically flawed by timidity. We read in 1 Samuel that Saul was an obvious choice for king: he was handsome, strong, and came from a powerful family (9:1-2). Yet at the time of his anointing, he was found "hiding among the baggage" (10:22), and later in his life, jealousy fueled his hatred for David and led to his own demise (18:6-9). We do indeed value meekness as a virtue, but the Scriptures point out that Saul was not so much meek as timid. When the people needed him to be strong, Saul was lacking in confidence.

St. Paul shows no such reservation. His interpersonal conduct was humble (2 Cor 10:1; Acts 18:3), but he never held back in proclaiming the truth and doing so directly if needed. He said what he thought and did what he said. Would that I had the same integrity and courage.

## Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. Carlo Acutis.** He had an authentic love of the Lord and true devotion and piety.