



ROBERT REYNEBEAU

Seminary

St. Francis de Sales Seminary
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Year

Configuration II

Birthday

September 5

Parish

St. John Nepomucene
Parish, Little Chute

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What is the best type of ice cream?

At the risk of being wildly specific, go to Dairy Cove in Cecil (open May-September) and order the Peanut Butter Blast. You can thank me later!

What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

Well, this past summer while studying in the Dominican Republic, I successfully took my classmates on a day trip to Santo Domingo, the country's capital, which meant navigating the chaotic Dominican traffic and all its motorcycles. My guardian angel actually takes partial credit for working overtime to keep us safe!

What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

I remember when I was two years old being shocked to learn that Jesus is consubstantial with the Father...just kidding! I believe the first thing I learned about Jesus is that He loves me and that He was born for us in a humble little stable to Mary and Joseph, which is why we celebrate Christmas.

How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

One way I celebrated the Jubilee Year is by making a simple pilgrimage to each of the official pilgrimage sites in our diocese. Another way I celebrated the Jubilee Year was by making a pilgrimage to Rome. It was a blessing to pass through the Holy Doors at each of the four major basilicas. Spending quiet time in prayer in these churches, I pondered more deeply the words of St. Paul, "Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (Romans 5:5).

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

Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." I love this verse because it is theologically rich, and it summarizes the goal of the Christian life. Yes, I still live the life that God has given me, but hopefully there occurs a gradual

transformation in my heart whereby Jesus is given more and more access to work in me. Of course, this is possible through God's grace and by staying close to the sacraments. Jesus Himself told us to take up our cross and follow Him, and by doing so we become more like Him and begin to love others as He loves us: in a sacrificial way. It also reminds me of that great proclamation from John the Baptist, "He must increase; I must decrease" (Jn 3:30).

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

It would have to be charity or love. Clearly, St. Paul grew to love God above all else. He had so much love in his heart for Christ that he was willing to suffer anything for the sake of the Gospel. He no longer had any regard for worldliness; he only preached Jesus crucified (1 Cor 2:2). It was the love of Christ which urged him on to proclaim the Gospel (2 Cor 5:14). I look at his letter to the Philippians, which he wrote while imprisoned in Rome, and reading it more carefully, I see how much of a link there is for St. Paul between suffering and love. He was not bothered by his imprisonment because it served to advance the Gospel: "My imprisonment is for Christ, and most of the brethren...are much more bold to speak the word of God without fear" (Phil 1:12-14). Then there is the famous section on the way of love from 1 Corinthians 13, which many of us have heard at countless wedding Masses: "Love is patient, love is kind...love never fails...faith, hope, and love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love." I aspire to this virtue so strongly exemplified by St. Paul because love is what will make ministry fruitful.

Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

St. John Vianney. He is a model for priests, and much of his priestly ministry was spent administering God's mercy through the healing sacrament of confession.