

KEEP THE FAITH ALIVE. Those who are discerning a religious vocation depend on the support and encouragement



of others. Please, do all you can to promote God's calling for men and women who are contemplating a life of sacred service.

“THE FRIARS IMPRESSED ME BY THEIR DEDICATION TO PRAYER, COMMUNITY LIFE, AND WORK FOR THE POOR.”

AS THE SECOND OLDEST OF SEVEN CHILDREN,

I learned about generosity by the example of my parents. They both worked hard to support us, and their sacrifice enabled each of us to receive a fantastic Catholic education. In reflecting on their love and commitment, I am inspired to respond to God in a similar way.

I was a student at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., when I met the Conventual Franciscans. At the time, I was studying politics and hoped to attend law school. The Friars impressed me by their dedication to prayer, community life, and work for the poor. They encouraged me to grow in holiness no matter what my vocation: daily Mass, Adoration, and Rosary. Their only goal for me was holiness! They impressed



on me a strong, personal relationship with Christ. The more I prayed, the more I sensed a call from the Lord to embrace the vowed life.

Having responded to the Lord's call by joining the Franciscans, my hopes and dreams now include preparations for my pastoral year in which I would teach high school before professing my solemn vows. After all, it was in school that I encountered Christ as a real person who loved me and wanted me to love much. What a joy it would be to help others come to that same awareness. Of course, the “what” I do isn't as important as “with whom”—my brothers!

Prayer, community, and ministry each teach me about who God is, who I am, and how to love more like God. These are the greatest joys and blessings of religious life.



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