

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.

**“I OWE A GREAT DEBT TO THE KNIGHTS
FOR HELPING TO INSTILL IN ME A GREAT
LOVE FOR THE CHURCH AND FOR SERVICE.”**

EVEN AS A CHILD I had an intuition that I would be called to the priesthood. Growing up, my family was active in our Catholic parish on the South Side of Chicago. My aunt is a religious sister, so the idea of dedicating one's life to serving God was familiar.

I attended Mount Carmel High School, which is run by the Order of Carmelites. I was immediately struck by their concern for all dimensions of our lives as students—not just academic. The Carmelites truly desired that we grow up to be good, loving, and dedicated Catholics.

In college, I became involved in the Newman Center. There, I met dedicated, faithful members of the Knights of Columbus and, soon, joined the college council. I spent five years in leadership positions—three

years as grand knight and two years as director of college councils for Illinois. I owe a great debt to the Knights for helping to instill in me a great love for the Church and for service.

This love and my sense of a vocation intensified after college. Recalling the dedication and love that the Carmelites showed me, I felt called to be an instrument of that love for others. I left graduate school and resigned my position with the state council to enter the Order of Carmelites in 1999.

I have now taken Solemn Vows and have been ordained to the transitional diaconate. I look forward to, by the grace of God, ordination to the priesthood later this year. My family, my parish, the Carmelites, and the

Knights have all played important roles in helping me fulfill my childhood intuition.



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