

*1. No matter what our state of life may be, we are called by God. Describe your personal calling; how you first heard God calling you and what your initial reaction was.*

I remember feeling the tug towards priesthood when i was in elementary school. So much of what I saw around me made so little sense. The bullying, the meanness, the selfishness ... I thought if we just listened to what God was saying at Church we would be so much better. In High School I started to look into seminary but I had no idea what that meant nor did I turn to someone for help. In the end I chose to go to a public university instead.

All throughout my time at UMass, Amherst I was very involved in the Newman Catholic Center and various other Christian groups. While I studied Biochemistry, my faith meant so much to me. In the spring of my junior year I talked to two different vocations directors. Then I fell in love. In my senior year it was the choice of entering seminary or seeing this amazing young woman. Romantic love won out.

Instead of seminary, I did a Masters in Education and began what i thought would be a career in teaching. But in my second year, my position was simply gone and I was left with a thing I hadn't had in years ... time.

I decided to do a year of service with Covenant House. I was a member of their faith community, praying three hours a day, living very simply and serving full time on their 18-21 year-old floor. It was intense. About 5 months into it my spiritual director asked if I could anything what would it be. My girlfriend and I had broken up, so I was single. I had roots in Boston and Western Mass and at that point Florida. That call to priesthood hit me pretty hard and I began the process of discernment and eventually application to seminary.

But my vocation journey was not simply what brought me to seminary (a series of amazing turns in my life) but also how God kept speaking to me throughout seminary and all these years of priesthood. Every day I recommit myself to the Lord and try my best to serve him in love and humility.

*2. For many, first hearing the call did not necessarily incite an immediate response. Describe when and how you answered the call.*

See above.

*3. We are all pilgrims on a journey. At this moment in time, where are you on your vocational journey?*

I am 29 years a priest. I have been pastor for 24 of those years in some very difficult situation. Currently i serve in the parish of St. Mary's. Our main church is in Lee, MA but we have a chapel in Stockbridge and another in Otis. We serve 8 towns (about 400 square miles) with those three churches, two cemeteries, two rectories and a Pre-School - 8th Grade parochial school. There's never a dull moment. God's grace gets us through. i love being a priest!