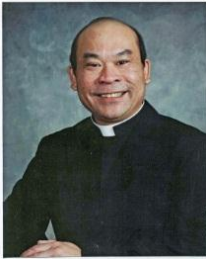


VOCATION NEWSLETTER

Diocese of Prince Albert

Fall 2011

Dear Lord, as you call men and women from amongst your faithful people, help us to foster this call with our prayers and support. May you strengthen each of us so that our lives and our words proclaim your goodness! Give us your spirit to guide those from our community to hear Your call, so that, with our assistance, they may faithfully answer Your call. Amen



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Saint Brother André Bessette Discernment House is located at 461 - 12th Street West. Fr. Travis Myrheim is the director of the discernment house. It is a place for young men to discover the vocation to which God is calling them. For information or an application form, please contact Fr. Travis Myrheim @ 922-4975 or the Director of Diocesan Vocations, Fr. Matthew Nguyen @ (306) 763-2319



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Our Seminarians and Postulant



Kendrick Beler



Micah McQuaid



Mathew Derworiz



German Alegria



Michael Averyt



April Mireau

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father, bless your church with an abundance of holy and zealous priests, deacons, brothers and sisters. Give to those you have called to the married state, and those you have chosen to live as single persons in the world, the special graces that their lives require. Form us all in the likeness of your Son, so that in Him, with Him and through Him we may love you more deeply and serve you more faithfully, always and everywhere. With Mary we ask you this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

We suggest the Deaneries would adopt a Seminarian/Postulant as follows:

July 2011 - July 2012 Parishes and Missions in Deanery 1 and 2: Michael Averyt; Mathew Derworiz

July 2011 - July 2012 Parishes and Missions in Deanery 3 and 4: German Alegria; April Mireau

(Postulant of the Sisters of Presentation of Mary)

July 2011 - July 2012 Parishes and Missions in Deanery 5 and 6: Kendrick Beler; Micah McQuaid



Michael E. Averyt

Born the 24th of February 1950

Story of discernment to the priesthood: One of my earliest memories is as a four-year-old, reciting a passage from the Sermon on the Mount at a Sunday School pageant.

‘Consider the lilies of the field...’ (Matt. 6:24-34) How could I know that the subsequent decades of my life would bear witness to the truth of these words?

Ours was an evangelical, Protestant household, and faith was an important aspect of our lives. I always had a sense that my place was in the church—a feeling not shared by my parents. Supposedly my first word was ‘Why?’ Teachers at school or church must have dreaded seeing my hand in the air, though they were usually pretty good about answering my questions. However, there was a time when the answers didn’t satisfy, and I biked to the local library to look for ones that did.

One of those questions had to do with the nature of the Eucharist. What I’d read in Scripture seemed to indicate there was more here than simple bread and wine—or, rather, grape juice. That began a quest for a sacramental understanding, leading me through Lutheranism, to Anglicanism, and ultimately to Rome. The scenery on the way was breathtaking, but too complex to describe here.

In 1978 I was invited by the Anglican Bishop of Ottawa to come to Canada, was ordained and served in Ontario, then in B.C. There I met and married Renske Henn (Sjoerdsma), a widow with two teenage children, Keith and Sheila. In 2004 we moved to Prince Albert, where I served as Archdeacon until 2007, when Renske and I felt called to become Roman Catholic. Fr. Allan, the parishioners at St Mark’s, and Bishop Morand were most gracious in welcoming us. This was an act of faith, since I had no prospects of employment, but when the post of Adult Faith Education Co-ordinator with the Diocese became vacant, much to my surprise, my application was accepted. The work itself is a delight and its own reward, as is collaborating with the Diocesan Staff.

Although aware of the Pastoral Provision, by which clergy having converted from certain Protestant churches can apply for ordination as Roman Catholic priests, I had no intention of doing so when we ‘swam the Tiber.’ However, one day a woman came into the Resource Centre, frustrated to tears because the shortage of clergy meant there was no one to help her with a particular ministry. This conversation haunted me for several weeks. After much prayer (and conversation with Renske!), I discovered that I still felt a vocation to the priesthood and asked Bishop Thévenot for his help, first in the discernment of the vocation, then in navigating through the paperwork required. The rector of St. Joseph’s Seminary, having examined my academic transcripts, suggested a two semester study programme, to commence this fall in Edmonton to fill in the major gaps in my education. If a vocation is discerned, at the appropriate time, the case will be forwarded to the Holy See for the necessary dispensations and permission for the ordination to take place.

Obviously much has been left out of this tale. It is difficult to condense 60 years into a few paragraphs, let alone explain the soul-searching, doubts, joys, surprises, and faith that all lie behind the sketchy facts outlined above. God truly clothes the grass of the field and the birds of the air, and I believe will provide what is needed for me to be what He wishes me to be.

Your prayers during this time of discernment would be greatly appreciated, and if you are so inclined to pray for me, kindly pray for my wife, Renske, as well. She will be remaining in Prince Albert while I am studying. Renske was a tremendous support to me in my Anglican ministry, a God-given gift, not only to me, but those I served. In her own way, she is like the Blessed Virgin Mary, who was asked to sacrifice much so that the One she loved might fulfill His Father's vocation for Him.

Hobbies and interests:

My wife and I are weavers and engage in various forms of handwork. I enjoy reading (English and German), chiefly history and whodunits, as well as church related subjects. Music has always been a favourite pastime, both listening and playing (organ, piano, oboe and voice). I also visit monthly at the Saskatchewan Penitentiary as part of the Person to Person Programme.



Micah McQuaid

Born the 29th of May 1990
Battleford, Sask

I was baptized soon afterwards in the Parish of Notre Dame. I was raised in a strong Catholic home, the third of five children. Soon after my baptism, my parents introduced me to my parish family of St. Vital Parish, just across the river in Battleford. As a young child, I had always been aware of the vocation of priesthood and had often entertained the thought, but later on in my youth I dismissed the idea; viewing the priesthood as a vocation where I would lose my freedom to live life in the way I wanted, thinking that I was called to marriage. As I grew older and came into my teen years I began to search more into my faith. Attending such events as Face to Face retreats, Diocesan Youth Rallies and our North Battleford Tri-parish Youth Group helped me build a community for myself among youth my age and educated me about my faith.

After my graduation from High School I moved to Saskatoon to study sociology at the University of Saskatchewan. During my time in Saskatoon I was blessed with a strong Catholic community of young people my own age. In my first year I became very involved with Catholic Christian Outreach, an organization that proclaims the Gospel message on university campuses all over Canada. I learned a lot about my faith and formed many lifelong friendships.

The summer after my first year of sociology I felt the call to serve on Catholic Christian Outreach's summer mission Impact, which took place in Calgary. It was a summer of living in community with other young missionaries and working in a local parish in teams of five to seven young people leading faith studies and different events.

This summer in the parish of St. Pius X challenged me to share my faith in a big way and caused me to attend to the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of others over my own, which was something I wasn't used to. I can't thank those who supported me financially and through prayers on this mission in Calgary enough.

In my second year of university I began to feel unmotivated and tired of school work that I wasn't interested in. I was very comfortable in my community in Saskatoon, but felt I needed to do something else with my life. I decided to take time off school to discern the next step in my life, but wasn't sure what to do. Because I felt unsatisfied in my current state, I began to really search in my prayer and become more spiritually present in Sunday mass. Awareness during the celebration of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation showed me the beauty in the vocation that I had mentally pushed away for so long. I began to see this vocation as something to be desired, not just a substitute if nothing else would work, but something that needed to be discovered and discerned.

Well now, here I am at St Joseph's Seminary in Edmonton discerning a vocation to the priesthood and I must say it has been a great experience so far. I look forward to the future months and years, not nervously or worried about what is to come, but excited to discover day by day the will of the Lord in my *life*.



Mathew Derworiz

Born the 24th of September, 1992

Shellbrook, Sask

Growing up in an household where both parents were Royal Canadian Mounted Police Officers gave me two things; a strong respect for those in authority and an excellent example of how one should help your community. My parents have always taught me to give back to the community; to be charitable. Works of mercy are important to my vocation. The actions of helping others who are in need helped me to realize God's mission for me. As a Scout, as a lifeguard, as a Catholic, helping others is a natural part of my life.

But why a Priest? I could help others by being a teacher or a social worker. The greatest means of helping someone is the sacrament of reconciliation. Only a priest can administer reconciliation, and salvation is dependent upon it. The sacrament that wipes away our sins has enabled me to see God's purpose for my life. To save the souls of others through Christ is one of the greatest things man can do for man, if not the greatest.

The Gospel story that most influenced me to my vocation is the parable of the scattered seeds found in Matthew 13 and Mark 4. It is our duty to help the seeds that fall among thorns. Bad companions, liquor, illegal drugs, and promiscuity are all vices that seem to be affecting the youth of our diocese. I hope to be of help in assisting those who have been affected by these vices; particularly in the Northern Communities. Please pray for me as I continue my seminary year.

For more information, please visit the website:

<http://padiocese.ca/diocesan-programs/vocations-committee.html>