

Happy Feast of Corpus Christi to all!

My name is Jean-François, I am 24 years old and I am a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall. I am working as a summer intern here at Divine Infant Parish.

Here is a little information about me!

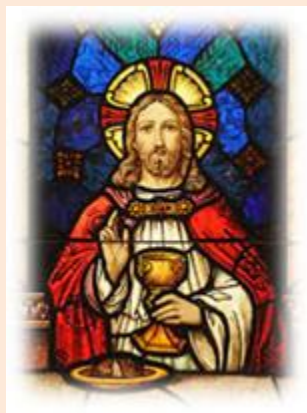
I have 5 siblings and 11 nephews and nieces. Some of my hobbies include reading, biking, playing music, playing video games and hanging out with friends and family. Before entering seminary, I studied at Garneau High School in Orleans. I got a degree in Urban Planning in Montréal and I spent a year as a travelling missionary with NET Canada.

I am so glad to have been assigned to this beautiful and busy parish. So far, I have been able to serve at weekday, school, retirement home and funeral Masses. It has also been a lot of fun helping with a Confirmation retreat in May and with the junior and senior youth groups; I used to attend the youth group at this parish for many years!



I have just finished my first year of studies at St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto. Some people have asked me what led me to discern the priesthood. To be honest, I only felt the call 4 years ago, whilst I was studying in university. I attended an online retreat (as it was the olden days of COVID-19) and the theme scripture was *"Speak, Lord, Your Servant is Listening"* (1 Sam 3:10). As I spent time in silent prayer and allowed God to speak to me about His will for me (instead of telling Him what I wanted), I gradually realized that I had a deep desire for the priesthood in my heart. This really surprised me, because I never had an interest in this vocation before! But as time went on, this desire only grew, to the point that I knew I was being called to discern the priesthood. Please keep me in your prayers that I may continue to deepen my discernment at seminary.

Let us pray for an increase in vocations to the Holy Priesthood. There has always been a shortage of shepherds in the Church – did our Lord not say Himself that “the harvest is plenty, but the labourers are few” (Mt 9:37)? It is not an easy calling; but if we answer God’s call with an open and willing heart, His grace will carry us through our difficulties and allow us to bear much fruit for His Kingdom. As the old saying goes, God does not call the equipped, but He equips the called.



Let us also pray for a personal increase in devotion to the Body and Blood of Christ. It is easy to come to Holy Mass every Sunday and simply go through the motions before returning home for a nice brunch. But do we take the time to appreciate the miracle that takes place on the altar? Do we receive our Lord with reverence and contemplate His true presence entering our souls? “No other nation (...) has a god who is so near when they need him as the LORD our God is to us” (Dt 4:7)

*God Bless!*

*Jean-François Dacquay  
Seminarian*