

Hello St. Philip Neri!

Greetings from the Pontifical College Josephinum Seminary in Columbus, OH. My first 6 weeks at seminary have been amazing. Thank you for the continued prayers and support. They are felt and greatly appreciated.

Before coming to seminary, I didn't really know what to expect. Questions such as: What is the daily routine like? What are the other seminarians from and how they discerned coming to the seminary? What do you do on the weekends? How often do you pray? The only knowledge I had of seminary was from discussions I had with a few priests and a brief visit down at the Josephinum seminary this past April.

As for the other seminarians, they are some of the best men I have ever met - all 215 of them. There are over 14 Diocese represented from around the nation. From Charlotte, NC to Nashville, TN, to Laredo, TX (the southern tip of Texas!) It provides a great diversity of men, each of whom have different stories home parishes, discernment stories and hobbies, but all have the same Catholic faith! It is a blessing to get to know many of them in the past few weeks.

To give you and insight, this is a typical day-in-the-life here at the Josephinum.

Each weekday, we begin at 6:45am by praying morning prayer in the chapel, which is inside the seminary building. We sit in choir stalls that face each other and chant the daily morning prayer, which typically consist of psalms and Old Testament readings. After morning prayer, we celebrate daily mass, which is then followed by breakfast around 7:45am.

The first academic class starts at 8:30am and usually finish by 1:00pm. I am taking 5 classes (15 academic credit hours) in total. Some of my favorite classes are Intro to Scripture and Liturgy, Sacraments and Prayer.

We then have the afternoons free time. Typical activities include playing sports (soccer, tennis, football), doing school work, daily prayers and rosaries. We also have daily Holy Hours in front of the Blessed Sacrament available at 4:45pm.

Finally, we all convene at 5:45pm for evening prayer in the chapel, which is then followed by dinner. There are meetings in the evening a few days a week that focus on spiritual and prayer life discussions.

As for the weekends,, there is typically a fun activity scheduled in addition to mass. One weekend we went on a 14-mile canoe trip, last weekend we had a sports competition called the "Pontifical Olympics"!

I have learned so much about my faith, the Church, and have made some great friends. The Holy Spirit is at work here, and it is exciting to see some of the mature, faithful men who God has called to be Catholic priests. Please continue to pray for vocations in the Church, especially for our local Gaylord Diocese.

Thank you again for the prayers. Please know you are in mine as well.

Best regards,

Mitch Roman