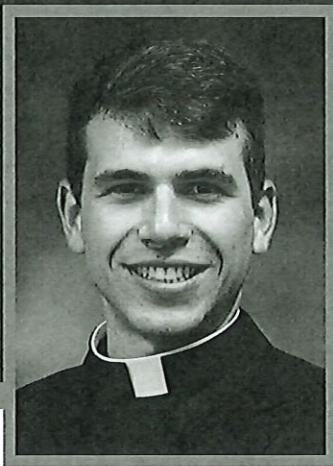




DCN. NATHAN BUDDE

Seminary

St. Francis de Sales Seminary
3257 S. Lake Drive
St. Francis, WI 53235-3702

Year

Configuration IV

Parish

St. Mary Parish,
Ledgewood

Birthday

March 6

Contact

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What is the best type of ice cream?

As a holder of Cedar Crest's "Licker License," it is my infallible, expert opinion that "Cookie Dough" is not merely an excellent flavor of ice cream, but indeed the best.

What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

One thing that I thought I would never be able to overcome was my fear of public speaking. Over my time in seminary, I not only became more comfortable with speaking in front of others, but now I find preaching at Mass among my favorite aspects of diaconal ministry.

What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

One of the first things I remember learning about Jesus is the story of his life in the Bible. More specifically, I remember as a young child reading *The Rhyming Bible* with my parents. Through this paraphrase of the Gospels, I particularly recall learning about his birth on Christmas, the miracle of feeding the five thousand, the conversion of Zaccheus, and his death and resurrection.

How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

At the beginning of the year, I was blessed to participate in the opening Mass for the Jubilee Year at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Green Bay. Over the course of the summer, I was able to offer Holy Hours of Hope at my summer assignment at St. Thomas the Apostle in Newton. During each of these Holy Hours, I offered a brief reflection on the upcoming Sunday's Gospel and the theological virtue of hope, which deepened my own prayer and awareness of how hope is always offered to us in the Sacred Scriptures.

What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

My favorite verse from St. Paul is 2 Corinthians 12:9, "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'" Two summers ago, I was assigned to go to the Dominican Republic to learn Spanish and gain missionary experience. I remember having many fears about the summer. I felt very vulnerable

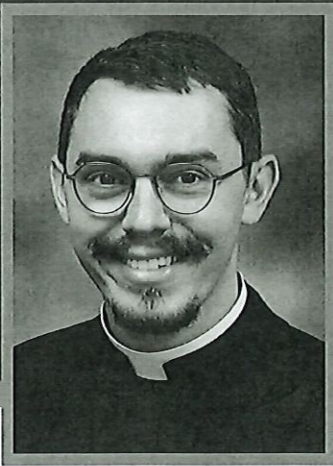
during this time because nothing was up to me. I could not choose what I did each day; I could not choose what I ate; I could not choose where we went or who I would be with; I could not even choose which language I spoke to communicate with others. At Mass on Corpus Christi during my first week there, I shared these fears with Jesus and, as I did so, I read this verse from Scripture. In that Mass, throughout that summer, and in the years since, Jesus showed me over and over again how His grace is sufficient for me and that He always takes care of me.

Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

I aspire to grow in the virtue of perseverance that St. Paul exemplified in his ministry. The virtue of perseverance is the habit of persisting in a good action, even amid difficulty, until it is accomplished. Among all the saints, I can think of no greater exemplar of this virtue than St. Paul in his ministry to the Gentiles. In 2 Corinthians 11, he describes at length to the Church in Corinth all that he has suffered and endured for the sake of preaching the Gospel: imprisonments, beatings, shipwrecks, robbers, sleepless nights, hunger and thirst, and the list goes on. St. Paul never let any of these trials keep him from proclaiming the Gospel with the same zeal with which he first preached it after his conversion. This is a level of perseverance that is not only admirable, but heroic. Rather than leading him to discouragement or tempering his efforts, these obstacles seemed to give him greater fire to offering the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth! This is a virtue that does not come easily. I have grown immensely in it over the course of six years of seminary, but there is always more room to grow and one that does not always come naturally to me. My prayer is that I might continue to grow in the heroic perseverance exemplified by St. Paul as I finish my last year of seminary and begin priestly ministry.

Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

St. Stephen. Please pray that through his intercession, I might live out my diaconal service to the Church faithfully and prepare for ordination to the priesthood in a few short months.



JACOB BOVEE

Seminary
St. Francis de Sales Seminary
3257 S. Lake Drive
St. Francis, WI 53235-3702

Year
Configuration III

Birthday
September 16

Parish
St. Mary of the Immaculate
Conception Parish,
Greenville

Contact
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What is the best type of ice cream?

Spumoni. I have only learned about this recently, but it's layers of chocolate, cherry, and pistachio with actual fruit and nuts within. Ultimate combo.

What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

Staying Catholic through college. It is tempting to abandon the faith when so many of your friends and peers do just that and seem to enjoy themselves just fine. It was a great test of will not to follow them, and I consider it a great victory to have persevered.

What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

I think the first thing I learned about Jesus was that he made the world. I loved being outside with my dad, and I wanted to know how the woods and the lake got there, and he told me Jesus put them there for us. From then on, I made sure to ask Jesus to keep "nature and water and the wild healthy" every night just in case he changed his mind!

How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

I have made a few pilgrimages to the Basilica of St. Josaphat in Milwaukee for the indulgence, which is beautiful. I have also tried to be more intentional about being generous with my resources, especially with those who I encounter in regular day-to-day life. I think generosity, whether in time or goods, is a great way to inspire hope in another person's life. It reminds us we are not alone, and obstacles which once seemed insurmountable are no longer so daunting.

What is your favorite verse from St. Paul's writings?

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God" (1 Cor 5:9-11).

I love these verses because they are bold. There is an immediate shock factor. In fact, I think there are many today who find it so harsh that we try to "reinterpret" this passage to have a softer message. But I think these words sounded just as harsh to the Corinthians as they sound to modern ears. They encapsulate why "the road is narrow and seldom trod." Being a Christian means we must leave our sin behind. We must repent, and that is hard. But it is good to know what we must do.

Which virtue exemplified by St. Paul do you most aspire to?

Zeal. I am deeply inspired by St. Paul's bold words. He knew that his preaching would get him in trouble with the Romans, and that it would make many people angry, yet he continued to preach because he knew that spreading the truth is worth every difficulty. He was driven to preach the truth of the Gospel, no matter what it cost him, whether he lost social prestige, was imprisoned, tortured, or even killed for it. I want that kind of zeal, because many things we have to say as Christians about the world around us are not easy. It is not easy to stand in front of someone and challenge them to be a better person. Yet if we truly desire to help each other reach heaven, we must challenge each other. I pray to God that I might have even a fraction of St. Paul's zeal, so I might speak the truth to all, especially when it is hard. Plus, zeal is a great defense against apathy. If I am zealous, then it means I care about the world enough to try and help it rather than standing by and watching it suffer. I certainly hope that I always care enough to say and do what must be said and done.

Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

St. Ambrose. Like St. Paul, he had great zeal as he defended the Church from Arianism. The teacher of Augustine, I trust him also to help me prepare for ordination to the diaconate.