



# NOAH VANDEN WYMELENBERG

**Seminary**  
Conception Seminary College  
PO Box 502  
Conception, MO 64433-0502

**Year**  
Discipleship II

**Birthday**  
August 18

**Parish**  
St. Clare Parish;  
Wrightstown,  
Greenleaf, and Askeaton

**Contact**  
njwymelenberg@gmail.com

## What is the best type of ice cream?

The best type of ice cream is mint chocolate chip because it tastes fresh with a smooth chocolate taste that does not overpower the mint flavor.

## What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

My greatest personal victory would be holing out from 87 yards playing golf and shooting my lowest round ever... a 78.

## What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

Jesus being the Son of God was the first thing I learned about Him and probably is one of the most important aspects of His identity. I can remember being in first grade at St. Clare Grade School during Christmas time and learning about the Nativity and that although Jesus was born to Mary and Joseph, he was truly the Son of God.

## How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

This Jubilee Year has been celebrated by discerning the priesthood with my seminarian brothers, praying for the Church and Pope Leo, and of course playing a lot of golf. I have found this Jubilee has instilled much gratitude in my heart for the Church we have, the tradition, saints, martyrs, and all the Church militant working diligently here on earth. There is nothing better or more fulfilling than following the will of God, especially in the context of vocations which has never been more prevalent than in this past year of discernment for myself.

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

1 Corinthians 13: 1-3 is my favorite verse of St. Paul's, and it speaks on the connection between our actions and the love that may or may not be at their center. I am a devout admirer of St. Therese and her "little way" of love, and I cannot help but connect these words of St. Paul's to her teaching that small acts of love can guide us to heaven and holiness. His words "... if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing" informs us that love is at the core of not just faith, but all

the other virtues necessary for holiness. St. Paul's witness of love was sacrificial not only in his conversion, but also in his martyrdom. He loved passionately and was willing to allow his love to guide his life, bringing him to Jesus, the Apostles, and sainthood.

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

St. Paul's fortitude is something I hope to replicate in my present life and in future ministry. The story of his conversion and his willingness to follow Christ, even amidst persecutions by his previous companions, shows his resilience and fortitude in the face of danger and uncertainty. The virtue of fortitude helps us in making decisions amidst difficult circumstances and can help us stand up for what we believe in. Seminary is full of hard decisions, and it can be easy to pick the easy ones instead of taking the hard road. I pray for fortitude along the path of discernment, knowing that it will not always be easy, but that following the will of God will ultimately lead to joy and fulfillment no matter how impossible it seems. Furthermore, St. Paul's conversion reminds me that I am called to conversion every day, seeking forgiveness for my sins and being born anew through the sacrament of confession. Conversion is never out of reach. It bears mentioning that his humility and compassion also stand out to me, and I believe he calls everyone to lead with these virtues despite the circumstances. I strive to have humility and hope to spread this virtue by merit of my actions.

## Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

**St. Augustine.** I admire his zeal for truth and humility found within his conversion. The painting of St. Augustine holding his flaming heart has inspired me over the years and ultimately led to my discernment of the priesthood.



# SAMUEL KURTH

**Seminary**  
Conception Seminary College  
PO Box 502  
Conception, MO 64433-0502

**Year**  
Discipleship I

**Parish**  
Our Lady of Lourdes  
Parish, De Pere

**Birthday**  
September 28

**Contact**  
crazymas2001@gmail.com

## **What is the best type of ice cream?**

Clearly the best type of ice cream is the free kind because...yeah.

## **What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?**

My best personal victory was over the bad hair genes. Shaving the bad hair line away really showed it who's boss and is a freeing feeling.

## **What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?**

The first thing that I learned about Jesus was that He was a dude from a very long time ago who asked much out of us. We need to go to church every Sunday, care for the poor, forgive the trespasses of others, love others as ourselves, and spread the Gospel to the edges of the world.

## **How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?**

The most impactful celebration of this Jubilee Year came from the pilgrimage that was made to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City by me and the rest of last year's Kairos men. Our Lady has continued to be a powerful intercessor as I am on the path of holiness. It was a great opportunity to have a pilgrimage of gratitude for her help along the way and for continued hope that she will continue to help me pursue being more in union with her Son and His will for my life.

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

My favorite writing of St. Paul is 1 Corinthians 13. I always viewed it in the lens of being a cliché reading at every wedding ever. More recently, I have had a much different view on the chapter. The essence of the writing is what it means to be a Christian. Jesus told us that the greatest commandment is to love God and to love your neighbor. We also learned that laying down one's life is the greatest form of love. This explains the small, nitty-gritty ways of love in our everyday lives. Sometimes it can feel complicated to figure out how to love, as we are not always sure what it looks like. This is an instruction manual on how to love both in small and big ways. Lastly,

it emphasizes that nothing matters more than love and that anything done without love is worthless. This is a message that for myself is most important as I grow into a deeper relationship with our Lord.

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

The virtue I admire most about St. Paul is his perseverance. I find perseverance in another person to be very admirable because it shows the strength and determination that someone has for the goals he or she aspires to. St. Paul was invited by our Lord for a big mission with many obstacles. With the history that St. Paul had with Christians before his conversion, many of his obstacles came from within the Church. The distrust that he got from many Christians, which seemingly was well-warranted, put him in a spot of complete surrender to the Lord. The strength needed for the perseverance that St. Paul had did not come from himself, but from the Lord. This is very apparent during his ministry as he traveled. He was not welcomed in every place, to the point that he was persecuted. He was stoned and left for dead but was able to shake the dust off his cloak and move on to the next town. St. Paul is an inspiration and role model of his perseverance for me because he showed the fruits that come from not giving up. God-willing as a priest myself, there is nothing more important than loving in an unconditional way no matter the circumstances.

## **Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?**

**St. Joseph.** He is a saint that has a big impact on my vocation – a man of great virtue and an example of how it looks to follow and trust God completely.