



CHARLES MATERNOSKI

Seminary

Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary
700 Terrace Heights
Box #1296
Winona, MN 55987-1320

Year

Discipleship II

Birthday

December 20

Parish

SS. Edward & Isidore
Parish, Flintville

Contact

cxmate25@smumn.edu

What is the best type of ice cream?

Mackinac Island Fudge is 100% the best ice cream flavor. It tastes better than all other flavors and comes from the best region in the United States! Midwest is best!

What do you consider to be your greatest personal victory?

Saying yes to the prompting to reapproach the sacrament of confession in 2022 will forever be my greatest personal victory. Though I have overcome a lot of hardships in my life, none of those superseded rekindling my relationship with Our Lord through His merciful love.

What was the first thing that you learned about Jesus?

Other than knowing His name, it was that Jesus is God, alongside the Father and the Holy Spirit. At the time, my brain was incapable of understanding the Trinity (and still is), but whether I cared or not, I always had a certain amount of certitude that Jesus is God. This is likely the case as the Sign of the Cross is the first prayer I learned.

How have you celebrated this Jubilee Year?

In June, I had the blessing of making a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. This was one of the many ways I saw an increase in the virtue of hope within me as I recognized Mary's great love for me. Also, throughout the year, I had many opportunities to see the Church alive throughout not only the Diocese of Green Bay but throughout other parts of the United States, which greatly bolsters hope within, as the Church is thriving (not dying) throughout the United States!

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

2 Corinthians 12:9-10: "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

Paul's great sufferings as an apostle for Christ are inspiring to me, as he uses those places of weakness as moments of intimacy with Our Lord. As someone with medical issues providing a heavy cross, looking towards Paul and hearing those words of his which clearly go against what the world tells us to do provides great hope for me, despite my weakness in it. Paul speaking of persecutions inspires me as well. The world is not warm towards Jesus, but when Paul speaks of embracing the persecutions for the sake of Christ, it gives those persecutions a completely different meaning.

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

Paul exemplifies the virtue of prudence in a very unapologetic manner. He is not afraid of being brutally honest, but throughout his letters, that is also juxtaposed with prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude for the blessings God has given him. As the mother of all virtues, mastery of prudence is something to work towards. You can always have too much or too little of a certain virtue, but prudence helps you have just the right amount of said virtue. At Paul's time, he preached very strongly and honestly, which was needed to convert the many souls placed in his path. Today, we see a similar need for bold preaching, and the virtue of prudence can aid us in understanding when we need to preach in the bold, unapologetic manner that Paul did throughout his mission work. The world needs strong missionary disciples, and if we strive to live out the virtue of prudence as Paul did, open to the movements of the Holy Spirit, the Lord can work miracles!

Which saint should people invoke for your vocation?

St. Charles Borromeo. Not only does he have a really great name, but he also is the patron of seminarians! As I approach this new stage of seminary, please seek his intercession in my studies and to keep my eyes forward on my ultimate vocation, which is love!