

To all the Parishioners of Good Shepherd,

Hello and greetings from Washington, DC! As many of you know I have been living out in DC for about a year now pursuing my Masters in Theology. Many of you knew me as a child sitting in, if I remember correctly, the fourth pew in the left-middle section next to Grandpa and Grandma (Leslie and Mary). You saw me be baptized, take first communion, affirm my faith in confirmation and then go away to college. As many of you know I went through some very tumultuous years and there for a while I wasn't even sure if I would ever get my head on straight. But by the grace of God I have and he has brought me to a point in life that I never thought would actually happen. The idea of the priesthood has come to me even from a very young age but I never thought it was an actual possibility. At some points in my life I was way to "ruff around the edges" to be a priest and at other times I just didn't want the calling. But the famous quote from the 4<sup>th</sup> century St. Augustine has rung true for me. "Our hearts are restless until they rest in You." Since I have decided to put my faith in God and go to where I feel called, I have never been happier. Shortly after moving to DC, I met the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales. The Oblates are a Religious Congregation founded in 1875 by Fr. Louis Brisson. We are a community of Brothers and Priests who live out the call of Christ in the Spirit of St. Francis de Sales. As Religious, we take the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Right now I am in the very first stage of religious life; the Postulancy (also known as Pre-novitiate). During this year I am introduced to religious life by living with the Oblates at their house of Formation in DC. My job as a Postulant is to get to know the community better through common prayer, spiritual reading, visiting Oblate ministries and really just living life with these men. This year is kind of like a trial run. I am not vowed to poverty, chastity or obedience yet, but I live as if I am to see if this life is for me. During this year I will continue to discern God's will for me and at the end of it will decide if I wish to continue along the path of formation with the Oblates or if I am feeling called elsewhere. This is a very exciting time for me and I thought it might be nice to keep you all informed since you all have played a part in my upbringing as a faithful Catholic. I will be home again at Christmas but I thought that I might write a few more times to tell you more about my journey as an aspiring Religious Priest. If you have any questions for me or prayer intentions that you would like my community to pray for I would be more than happy to hear from you. The best way to contact me is probably email, which is: [james.wrigg@gmail.com](mailto:james.wrigg@gmail.com). If you would like to know more about the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales you can ask me or check out our web page at [www.oblates.org](http://www.oblates.org). Thank you for your support and prayers.

In Christ,

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