

Hello Everyone,

I hope you are all doing well. Just an update on the second half of the spring semester, but first, thank you for your continued prayers and support. Also, thank you to all who have supported the Annual Catholic Appeal for the Toledo Diocese. One of the areas this yearly campaign helps to fund is our schooling at the seminary, so by donating towards the ACA, you truly do share in the formation of the priests who will serve the people of our diocese.

It has certainly been a crazy few weeks. In mid-March, we were sent home from the seminary due to the coronavirus, so classes were online. It was definitely challenging to continue seminary studies here at home, but I am very thankful to have been able to help at the parish daily. Overall, this will be an experience to remember, from the stay at home order to an empty church on Easter and the Eucharistic procession on Easter Sunday through the streets of Glandorf, to the reopening of public Masses at the end of May.

Several weeks before we were sent home from the seminary, I went to Washington D.C. for spring break with a seminarian friend from the Diocese of Kansas City–St. Joseph, Missouri. As someone who enjoys history and politics, Washington D.C. was a great place to visit. We toured the White House and Capitol, saw the Bible Museum, the Museum of American History, the National Archives, Arlington Cemetery, and so much more. We even made a stop at the Trump Hotel for coffee and cheesecake. One of the highlights for us was being able to take our picture in the White House with the portrait of President George Washington behind us. This portrait has been in the White House since it opened in 1800 and was saved by First Lady Dolley Madison during the War of 1812 when the British troops burned Washington D.C.

Well, the spring semester ended back in early May and with it the end of my second year of schooling as I continue toward the priesthood, five more years to go. I am now finished with philosophy, and will be starting theology. Looking back, on this school year, it was filled with so many experiences, some great times, and yet also some spiritual lows, but overall, each experience has been a blessing.

I hope and pray that we will be fully into our new normal very soon, and hopefully it will be better than before. For God has given us time these last few months to refocus our lives back on what really matters: Faith, Family, and Friends. We must always remember to live each day as if it is our last, for one day it will be; and then the things of this world won't matter. So please stay focused on God, by praying throughout each day. Also remember that as things continue to open up, and you venture back out, keep in mind that if you can play (work, sports, go out to eat, etc.), you can go to church and pray. Don't make the things of this world more important than asking God for His mercy and forgiveness of our sins, and giving thanks and praise to Him for the blessings He gives us. Remember to always attend Mass.

This summer I have been assigned to a parish for eight weeks. Starting June 1st, I will be helping at St. John the Baptist parish, Point Place (North Toledo) and Toledo, St. Michael.

All of you are in my prayers.

Take care and God Bless,

Eric T. Kaufman



St. John the Baptist,
Point Place
(North Toledo)



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