

# Andrew Soukup



**Birthday:** January 28

**Home Parish:** St. Anthony, Lakin

**High School:** Lakin High School

**University:** University of Kansas

**Previous Career:** professional student, so far...

**Seminary:** Mount St. Mary's Seminary  
16300 Old Emmitsburg Road  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727-7797

**Year in Seminary:** 2nd Theology

**Where were you born?** Great Bend, KS

**Where did you grow up?** Great Bend, Lakin

**How many brothers and sisters do you have?** I'm the youngest of four—two brothers and one sister

**Favorite Saint:** St. Benedict, St. John the Baptist, St. Martin and St. George

**What are your hobbies and interests?** I enjoy reading, writing and drawing, plus outdoor activities—hunting and camping.

**When did you first hear God's call to enter the seminary?** As long as I can remember, I've always thought that God might be calling me to be a priest. That call really came to the forefront of my mind during my time at KU.

**How does seminary differ and how is it similar to what you thought it would be?** I naturally assumed that there would be a lot of studying at seminary, but seminary is a lot more than graduate school. I wasn't at all prepared for the amount of "extra" work we do—meetings with the faculty, pastoral ministry, house jobs, etc.

**What does the priesthood mean to you?** The priest is, to borrow an old Latin word, the *pontifex*, that is, a bridge-builder. He brings God to man and man to God. He, in a way, is a savior, insofar as he leads others to the Savior.

**What would you say to anyone considering the priesthood?** Give it a try. There's nothing to lose. I've had lots of friends who, during my time here at the seminary, have come, but then left because they discerned that it was not God's will for them. None of them have ever regretted their coming, and all of them are better men, better husbands and better fathers because of their time here. And, if God is calling you to be a priest, then I can't think of any better life than the one God wants for you.

**What do you think the best thing will be about being a priest?** The best part of the priesthood—from my perspective—is the growth in holiness and proximity to God that comes from a life of service to both God and my fellow man. The priest is ordained to serve others, and in the process he himself becomes a better person. He is like a conduit through which God's grace flows to the world: if you want more water out of a pipe, you build a bigger, better pipe. God makes His priests holy, so that He can make His people holy.