

### **Biographical Information for Seminarian Deacon Nicholas Bennett**

I grew up in Mandarin, Jacksonville. I have two loving parents, Randy and Janice, as well as a brother named David and a sister named Ally. I attended St. Joseph's grade school and have been a lifetime parishioner. It was there at St. Joseph's sitting in the back of the Church preparing for my Confirmation that I felt a call to the priesthood. The Holy Spirit told me that I was going to be "up their on that altar one day" as a priest.

I attended Bishop Snyder High School and graduated in 2009. During the summer of my junior and senior year I attended the Steubenville conference with the St. Joseph's youth group. I believe that the Lord showed me at that conference what my life would be like if I decided to follow my plan, my desires in life instead of His. It was there that I decided I would follow the Lord with all my heart. I would stop questioning Christ and let Him be the guide of my life instead of me. After this experience I became more open to the idea of becoming a priest, trusting that the Lord would guide me through my discernment.

However, I still was not completely ready or sure of my vocation, so I entered Florida State University and became a life-long Seminole! It was there that I met the Brotherhood of Hope, a religious order whose charism was college and young adult ministry. The Brotherhood of Hope taught me that being a Catholic man, even a Catholic priest is something that I could do while still enjoying the things I enjoyed! Things like fishing and golfing, meeting people and having fun! I was working on a B.A. in Philosophy, but I left FSU after three years and transferred to St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami, FL to become a seminarian. I graduated from St. John's in 2015 and entered St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary to study theology and continue my seminary formation. I was ordained a transitional Deacon on April 20, 2018 and look forward to continuing my seminary career in hope of being ordained a priest in 2019.