

Biographical Information for Seminarian Deacon Maurice M. Culver MD

I was born into a Protestant family in Gary, IN. I was the younger of two brothers born 9 years apart. We occasionally attended church at the Methodist Church down the street where we lived. We were mostly Easter church attendees and my father would take us to Friday night “revival meetings” on other occasions during the year.

During college at Purdue University, I first attended a Catholic Mass in October of my freshman year at the invitation of one of a group of Catholic friends. After attending that midnight Mass, which the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community celebrated on Saturday nights during the school year, I inquired of the pastor about becoming Catholic. I was received in full communion in the spring of my freshman year. I completed BS and MS degrees at Purdue and went on to Medical School at Howard University on a US Navy Scholarship, then spent 20 years on active duty.

After moving to Jacksonville I became a catechist in PREP at St. Joseph Parish and later entered the Diocesan Ministry Formation Program graduating in 2001. I was accepted into the first Permanent Diaconate Formation Class for the Diocese of St. Augustine and was ordained in June of 2006 with 11 other men.

As I chronical my journey I believe that I’ve answered or at least attempted to answer a yearning that, as David Brooks, the author of *The Road to Character*, terms “the Adam I”, the attempt to succeed in the secular world but finding that everything in the secular realm is just not enough; there is more. It is that same fulfillment that I believe all of us yearn for, what Brooks terms our “Adam II”, not to continue to work on our resume virtues, which if we dwell in the secular realm, will always leave us empty. The “Adam II”, our “eulogy virtues”, the things, the qualities that others say about us after we have passed on are what I term the yearning call from God to follow him.

There is more that I can do for God’s people. I’ve answered the call to the Permanent Diaconate and the yearning to do more for His people has not ceased. I believe that Jesus is calling me to do more for His people in the sacramental priesthood.