



OUR LADY

Star of the Sea

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Meet Seminarian Jonathan Goldman

*Assigned to Our Parish
on His Journey to the Priesthood*

INSIDE

- 3 Welcome Back...
Welcome Home!
- 4 Parishioner Lori
Anderson Reflects on
10 Years of Service at
Mission House
- 6 The Traits of the
Christian Steward
- 7 Becoming Men of Faith:
That Man is You!

Seminarian Jonathan Goldman says he felt the first possible stirrings of a priestly vocation early on in his life. It was there, in the back of his mind, prompted by the periodic questions of elderly parishioners.

“I remember even as a kid, elderly ladies and priests would come up to me and say, ‘You are going to be priest when you grow up,’” says Jonathan, who has been assigned to Our Lady Star of the Sea as part of his training and formation as he continues his journey to the priesthood. “And even though my twin brother and I looked just alike and acted essentially the same, they never said it to him — they only said it to me.”

Yet, as Jonathan transitioned to high school, thoughts of the priesthood quickly flew to the background as his mind focused instead on the usual

teenage distractions. Still, God continued to provide him with signs, most notably a short film entitled *Fishers of Men* that he viewed in class during his senior year.

“I definitely wasn’t into showing emotions at that time in my life, but I just started bawling when the sister showed us that video,” Jonathan says. “Later, I went to the resident priest at the school and I sat down with him and started to talk with him about my desire to become a priest. He gave me the number for the vocations director of that diocese at the time, but I never acted on



Jonathan Goldman on a volcano in Guatemala.



Meet Seminarian Jonathan Goldman *continued from front cover*

it. I chickened out and decided to go to college first. And looking back, I'm glad I waited because I wasn't ready."

Jonathan began studying psychology at Virginia Tech. Initially, thanks largely to the faith foundation instilled in him by his mother, Jonathan says he remained faithful. However, his second year, for whatever reason, he decided not to attend Mass one Sunday morning. That was the beginning of a downward slide that continued until his junior year when he was spiritually awoken by some difficult news.

"I was diagnosed with cancer two weeks before finals my junior year," Jonathan says. "I had to put my studies on hold and go home for immediate chemotherapy and surgery because it was pretty aggressive and I had waited too long. While there, I wanted to go back to the church and receive the sacraments. Being faced with the fragility of my own mortality like that really put things back into perspective — forced me to reevaluate my priorities."

Too sick to physically attend church, Jonathan began receiving the Eucharist at home. Most of the time, this was brought to him by elderly Eucharistic Ministers, but every once in a while he would be visited instead by the parish's parochial vicar, a newly ordained priest.

"Oftentimes he would sit down and visit with me for about an hour," Jonathan says. "Even though he wasn't

quite sure what to do or say to me, the fact that he was there at all and present was massive for me. I couldn't help but think I could do this. I could do what he is doing. That really reignited my discernment for the priesthood."

Thankfully, Jonathan made a full recovery and was even able to graduate on schedule. He decided to put off graduate school in order to work and spend a full year discerning before ultimately entering the seminary for the Diocese of St. Augustine in 2017.

Now, about halfway through his priestly formation, Jonathan is excited to receive his first parish assignment here at Our Lady Star of the Sea, and to continue learning about, discerning and preparing for this beautiful vocation.

"I know Msgr. Brennan has a lot of wisdom for me and I'm excited to learn," Jonathan says. "And I would just encourage any other young men — or even older men of the parish — who are even slightly considering priestly vocation not to keep it in the back of their mind as I did. It can be a real message from God resonating in your soul. Don't be afraid to speak to me about it, or to speak to the other priests. The fact is, going to the seminary is a win-win. Even if you don't end up becoming a priest, you learn so much more about yourself and you will definitely leave a better man."

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— SEMINARIAN JONATHAN GOLDMAN



A Letter from Our Pastor

Welcome Back... Welcome Home!

Dear Parishioners,

To those of you who have been actively participating in the life of our parish but have been forced to stay away due to the COVID-19 pandemic, welcome home!

To those of you who haven't been to church in years and decided to renew your faith, welcome back, and welcome home!

During these past few months, we have experienced some of the most challenging and unnerving times in the history of our nation and Church. As we start to emerge from the darkness of this crisis and return to Mass and parish activities and ministries, I feel blessed and excited.

Excited to see familiar faces.

Excited to see new faces.

Excited to see faces of those we haven't seen in a while but decided to come back!

In times like these, when nothing seems to make sense, I am so very glad you are here. The timing of your return is perfect, because the truth is we need Christ now more than ever.

Whether you have simply been forced to stay away while public Masses were canceled, or if you have been away from the Church for many years, this crisis has changed us.

All of us.

We have had some extra time lately for introspection. For personal reflection. And for prayer. And perhaps during this era of isolation and social distancing, you have found yourself yearning for Christ more than ever before in the hopes of finding some meaning to all of this.

You have come to the right place.

As you walk through our doors for the first time in months — or perhaps even years — I hope you see the face of Christ in myself and in all those around you. I hope you



find a welcoming parish family there to greet you, overjoyed by your return.

As Christ tells us, from Matthew's Gospel, "For I was a stranger, you welcomed me" (Mt. 25:35).

The truth is, there really are no strangers at our parish. So as you come back home to our parish, I hope and pray you experience that same spirit of kindness and hospitality from all your fellow parishioners.

Whether you're a longtime parishioner, or someone who fell away from the Catholic Church and are now ready to become renewed in the faith, let us all remember to welcome all who enter our parish doors with open arms, smiling faces and a servant's heart.

By living out our calling as Christian stewards, we will all emerge from this dark time as a community of faith that is stronger than ever — together.

Welcome back. And welcome home.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. Keith Brennan
Pastor





Parishioner *Lori Anderson* Reflects

If you had told Lori Anderson two decades ago that she would today be retiring from 10 years of rewarding work with a Jacksonville, Fla., non-profit organization, she scarcely would have believed you! Prior to meeting her husband, Jay, on a Food for the Poor mission trip in 2007, Lori had lived just south of San Francisco her entire life. Prior to moving to Florida, she worked as an operations manager for United Airlines and the director of parish operations for her home church in California. Her 2009 marriage not only brought Lori across the country, but it also led her to the Mission House.

With her love of non-profits and passion for running a business, Lori transitioned smoothly into the role of

executive director of Mission House in 2010. Immediately, she was encouraged by the amazing work she saw being done by the many people who serve the homeless there.

“I noticed from the very beginning that our volunteers were the heart of what we do,” she says. “They serve with their whole heart and soul, and about 60 to 75 percent of those working in the kitchen are from Our Lady Star of the Sea.”

While the main services provided by Mission House when Lori arrived were shower facilities and two hot meals a day, she quickly realized that this organization was so much more than your average “soup kitchen.” With that in mind, she implemented the term “homeless day center” to more accurately describe their objectives.



Lori Anderson with her husband, Jay



on 10 Years of Service at Mission House

Lori also identified a need to connect with other area non-profits and to provide more help in getting the Mission House clients off the streets.

“We have focused everything on housing,” she says. “Since I arrived, the number of our case managers has increased from one to three full-time and one part-time case managers. Last year, we got 140 people into housing, as compared with 36 during my first year at Mission House.”

Over these last 10 years, Lori has been continually humbled and inspired by this incredible opportunity to serve God’s people.

“Sharing Jesus with our clients has been an amazing experience, and they are the ones who have blessed me each and every day,” she says. “I know that they care about me, and I used to tell them every day how much *we* care about *them*. The biggest thing I tried to teach people is that these are not ‘the homeless’ — these are people, and they are just like you and me. They had lives and they had careers, and some weren’t blessed with the families that you and I have or the support that we have. Mission House has helped them get back on their feet. They have been a great educator for me in learning not to judge and in learning compassion.”

While her retirement from Mission House is certainly bittersweet, Lori finds comfort in knowing that the organization will remain in very good hands moving forward.

“I’m very proud of my staff — excellent men and women doing what they do every day,” she says. “And the new executive director is Carina Saladino. Carina has new eyes, a new heart and new energy, and she’ll bring it to the next level.”

As she looks forward to her new role as part-time executive director of the Beaches Council on Aging, Lori knows that

the Mission House will always hold a special place in her heart. The past 10 years have been a true blessing for her, and she is especially grateful for the support that our parish has provided to Mission House.

“I thank Msgr. Brennan, who when he first became our pastor, came to Mission House to see what we do, quadrupled the donation from the parish, and has always been a great support to us,” she says. “And I’m so appreciative of the volunteers, because we couldn’t do what we do without them. So many of these people have become my friends. Seeing them do what they do each and every day for the people that we serve — it makes me proud to know that they are from my parish.

“I’m just so grateful,” Lori adds. “It’s just amazing to see the dedication and the heart that these parishioners have for what they do!”

“Sharing Jesus with our clients has been an amazing experience, and they are the ones who have blessed me each and every day. I know that they care about me, and I used to tell them every day how much we care about them. The biggest thing I tried to teach people is that these are not ‘the homeless’ — these are people, and they are just like you and me. They had lives and they had careers, and some weren’t blessed with the families that you and I have or the support that we have. Mission House has helped them get back on their feet.”

— LORI ANDERSON

Are you interested in learning more about how you may be able to support Mission House? Many of the organization’s original volunteers — some who have served since its founding over 20 years ago! — are beginning to “retire” from serving, so all parishioners are strongly encouraged to consider lending their time and talent to Mission House.

Please visit www.missionhousejax.org or call 904-241-6767 for more information.



The Traits of the **CHRISTIAN STEWARD**

Each day, we strive to live stewardship in our lives, recognizing our roles as “God’s co-workers” in His creative, redemptive and sanctifying work. But in our quest to live as disciples of Christ, many obstacles often arise.

One of the most prevalent roadblocks in living stewardship is understanding the traits that make up a good Christian steward. Surely, it would be much more convenient if we had some sort of “stewardship list” that could lay out the necessary steps to becoming a good steward. Unfortunately, it more often feels like living stewardship is a lifelong journey that we will never fully comprehend.

Fortunately, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ pastoral letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, gives some insight into the characteristics that make up a good Christian steward.

The Christian steward should display some of the following traits:

Insight — Before the disciples could live what we know as the stewardship way of life, they needed a flash of insight, or a certain way of viewing the world and their relationship to it in a fresh light. This “divine grandeur,” more than anything else, is often what sets people on the path to Christian stewardship (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, 39).

Conscientiousness — Stewards are fully conscious of their accountability in sharing of their time, talent and treasure. As caretakers of the gifts that God has given them, they have the opportunity and responsibility to use them to their fullest potential to spread God’s Kingdom on Earth (40).

Generosity — Christian stewards are generous out of love as well as duty. They should display a desire to share with and care for others based on



the sacramental graces they have received. And they are also cognizant of the many warnings that the New Testament presents to those who fail in charity and authentic love (40).

Joy — Christian stewards are often presented with difficult obstacles, but they should remain joyful in the face of challenges to their lives of stewardship. Like Paul, the good steward is able to say, “I am filled with encouragement, I am overflowing with joy all the more because of all our affliction” (2 Cor. 7:4). Only by serving with a joyful spirit will stewards fully reap the rewards of their service, both in this life and the next.

Indeed, living as a Christian steward is a lifelong journey with many ups and downs along the way. But if we strive to consciously incorporate each of these characteristics into our giving of time, talent and treasure, we will find that the responsibilities of a good Christian steward will become much clearer with each experience of service.



Becoming Men of Faith: *That Man is You!*

“**W**herever you are in your spiritual life, Jesus Christ wants to encounter you right there and take you further.”

Such was the inspiration of Steve Bollman, the Founder of the That Man is You! program, or TMIY. Since its founding in 2004, TMIY has helped hundreds of Catholic men, all across the country, grow in their relationships with God, their families and their communities.

Six years ago, parishioner Bob Mylod met with Msgr. Brennan and a decision was made to bring the ministry to the men at Our Lady Star of the Sea.

“The purpose of That Man is You! is to build the faith of Catholic men of all ages, but particularly those who are fathers or grandfathers,” Bob says. “The whole purpose is to create men who are standing firm on the 2,000-year-old teachings of Christ. The content — it is very authentic Catholicism, right out of the Bible and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.”

The group meets weekly on early Friday mornings to enjoy coffee and donuts, watch a short video teaching, and engage in a discussion of how it applies to their lives. During the COVID-19 crisis, TMIY continued to meet — but virtually, through Zoom video chats.

“It meets early, so people who are working can go to it and then go to work,” Bob says.

For Bob and others who have been active in TMIY, it’s been an opportunity to grow deeper in their faith, while developing meaningful relationships with other Catholic men. The program is designed to help men to integrate and live their faith more actively in every area of their lives — from personally and in their vocations, to in their workplaces and community. The ministry brings together men of all different stages of life, to provide encouragement to one another on the journey of faith. In a world where men often feel isolated, both in their faith and their struggles, TMIY provides a unique kind of support.

“We come from all walks of life, but as we’ve gotten to know each other, we’ve gotten more and

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TMIY Core Leadership Team (from left) Bob McKeefrey, Bob Mylod and Doug Wilson (not pictured, Augie Yanke)



TMIY Participants (from left) Keith Frein, Bob Mylod, Bob McKeefrey and Mike Kane



TMIY Participants (from left) Matt Finnis, Kyle Hensley, Doug Barrow, Jonathon Williams, Bill Brunscheen and Doug Wilson



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Becoming Men of Faith *continued from page 7*

more comfortable and that interaction has become very dynamic,” Bob says. “There are several age groups represented in our small groups — we’ve got older guys, middle-aged guys and younger guys. If [someone] has a problem in their family or their job, they can articulate it and other guys who have been there and done that are able to help.

“It just naturally draws us closer to our faith because we’re talking about it each week,” he adds. “We go in and

out of the *Catechism, and the Gospels, and our Lord’s life, and it just draws people closer and closer to their faith.*”

Bob encourages the men of the parish to consider becoming involved with TMIY.

“There are so many ways that people who are trying to grow in their faith can benefit from being in That Man is You!” Bob says. “It’s going to draw you closer to your Catholic faith and it’s going to help you be a better father, grandfather and a better person in your career.”

If you would like more information, or to become involved in That Man is You! at Our Lady Star of the Sea, please contact the parish office at 904-285-2698, or coordinator Bob Mylod directly at 732-598-4544 or robertmylod@robertmylod.com.

For Current Mass schedule, please visit our website at www.olsspvb.org.