

Dear Historic Trinity,

I just wanted to write to you all as vicarage begins to draw to a close. At this point I now have about two months left before I head back to the seminary and begin my final year of classes. It has been a wonderful experience so far, and I feel so blessed to have been able to have learned here under Pastor Kieselowsky. I know I will take what I have learned with me back to the seminary and then into the parish. That being said, I am starting to seriously consider staying at the seminary to work on a Master of Sacred Theology (STM), with the hopes of eventually going for a PhD. I would greatly appreciate your prayers for discernment in this matter. I have had numerous people out here in Philly from pastors, to parishioners, to near strangers encourage me to go on for further studies. This has gotten my mind to start actively thinking about it again. I played around with the idea of going on for further studies after seminary back in college but kind of put the idea away for a while. Now it has resurfaced through the support, suggestions, and encouragement of others. Perhaps, they see a quality in me that I don't quite see. Either way, sticking around for further studies has popped up on my radar again. So, I've been emailing a few professors at the seminary to ask for advice and guidance, and also have consulted a few friends who went through the process to see what they think. Ultimately, it will be based on my acceptance into the program and being able to financially support myself through another year or two of school. I may reach the point at the end of my fourth year where I just want to be out of school and be in the parish as a pastor. But whatever, I hope you'll keep me in your prayers as I consider this possibility.

In terms of finishing up vicarage, my workload has already dropped down quite a bit in these last two weeks or so. It roughly coincided with the end of the school year for the college students. This would make some sense since part of my vicarage is reaching out to new students. However, I still have had very little success on that front. I pray the Lord will provide students for us to reach out to and bring to worship with us in the city. I know the next vicar will have his work cut out for him as he tries to bring in new young adults. But I know that when he gets here and we overlap for about a week I will impress on him the importance of visiting the college campus and being proactive in meeting and

engaging with students. I think if we could get just one serious student to join us then we could have a foothold on the campus and start making more progress. Still, all our efforts are in vain if they aren't done with the help of the Holy Spirit. The harvest is plentiful, and the laborers are few after all.

With vicarage ending in July, I will have about a month before classes start up. I hope to travel up to Michigan and visit with you, joining you in a service on Sunday. I am very excited to finish up this year and return to campus to see friends and professors again. It will be nice to return to the classroom and apply what I've learned so far. I hope that you continue to pray for me as I inch closer to the close of my seminary education and eventually become ordained.

God's Blessings,

Alexander Ogden

