

JOURNEYS OF FAITH

by: Fr. Tom Kreidler
with reflections by: Boston Socha '23, Ethan Hawyschuk '24,
Jordan Marshall '24 and Dylan Wahl '24

One of the characteristics of Marianist education is to educate for formation in faith. As a Catholic school in the Marianist Tradition, we educate in the Catholic faith; but for those who are not Catholic, our purpose is to help students reflect on their faith, whatever it may be—that is, to make students who are Baptists better Baptists, or those who are Methodists better Methodists, and so on.

Sometimes that reflection on faith and their faith tradition leads students to the Catholic faith. This year, we have four students who—after reflection, discussion, and instruction—will be entering the Catholic faith: Boston Socha '23, Ethan Hawyschuk '24, Jordan Marshall '24 and Dylan Wahl '24. These young men have been meeting with campus minister Steve Joebgen, religion teacher Jerry DiCristoforo, and Fr. Tom, our campus chaplain, at 7:00 on Friday mornings (itself a sign of interest and commitment) as well as at other times to delve more deeply into the Catholic faith. Here they share more about their faith journeys.



Left to right:
Fr. Tom Kreidler, Dylan Wahl '24, Boston Socha '23, Jordan Marshall '24, Ethan Hawyschuk '24

Thank you...

We're grateful for the guidance and support of Jeremy Helmes, director of the Office for Divine Worship and Sacraments and the Center for Parish Vitality, as well as Nicholas Hardesty, associate director of Adult Evangelization and RCIA for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. We are also thankful for the support of Fr. Craig Best (pastor of St. Francis de Sales, Lebanon, and St. Philip the Apostle, Morrow) and Fr. Ed Smith (parochial vicar for St. Margaret of York and St. Columban, Loveland).



New members of the Catholic Church and their sponsors.

Ethan Hawyshuck:

“Throughout my time at Moeller, I have been able to grow immensely in my faith. From the impactful religion teachers to my stint as a member of Campus Ministry Executive Board, my experiences at Moeller have brought me to a new path on my faith journey: becoming Catholic. I was previously blessed to grow in my faith at IHM with Fr. Tom, resulting in my being baptized at age 12 in a nondenominational church. Now it is time for me to take another leap and enter the fullness of the Catholic Church. The rich tradition and community which I have experienced, especially in our formation group, have led me to this decision. I look forward to taking the next step in my faith journey along with several of my Moeller brothers and Fr. Tom.”

Dylan Wahl:

“I remember when I was first drawn into the Catholic faith: Last winter in religion class, we were learning about what Catholic men were called to be. What first drew me in was how men were called to be the spiritual leaders for their families. This was an idea I had never heard of until this particular class, and it got my attention. Afterward, I looked more deeply into the faith

and what the Church believed, and was drawn even more in by the answers the Church offered to a lot of my questions. At the start of this school year I was on the edge, wondering if and when I would want to start the process of converting. It wasn’t until after I had a sudden surgery to remove a tumor from my abdomen that I finally made my decision — in part because of the time I had to reflect on what I was going through, and on all with which God had blessed me. Fr. Tom’s visits to the hospital also played a large role in me finalizing my decision. He would pray with me and gave me a rosary, which I now pray almost every day!”

Boston Socha:

“Coming into Moeller, I really didn’t know what being a Catholic meant; I barely knew anything about Christianity. I grew up believing in God, but my family never went to church all that often. So when I first got to Moeller, my first religion class was the first real exposure I had to Catholicism. Learning about scripture was very interesting to me, but I never really took any action on it; it was more like an interesting history class. It was like that all the way

until my junior year, when I took classes with Mr. DiCristoforo. The more I learned, the more I found my beliefs aligned with those of the Church. Going on K-117 (the Kairos retreat) in my senior year is what really cemented my desire to be a Catholic. I found myself really opening up about my religious journey through Moeller, and that is when I sought out Mr. Joebgen and Fr. Tom to see what I could do about it. I’m very excited to continue my journey with all my brothers at Moeller.”

Jordan Marshall:

“After my first religion class at Moeller, it started to dawn on me that I wanted to learn more. Attending prayer services and singing songs for football really set me on the path of joining the Catholic Church. Faith formation with my football team brought me closer to my teammates, my community and family. The main reason I wanted to become Catholic is because I feel like I’m being called to a bigger purpose than just football. My relationship with God is helping me become the man I am. I think my purpose is to help kids and the community and that is what God is calling me to do.”