



Meet the 2010-2011 Dominican Central Province Novices



Br. Isaac Anderson

Referred to by his Baptismal family as 'the meister with the moster,' this brother now goes by "Isaac," or the one who laughs. Like Rachel and Abraham's in Genesis, he too prefers to smile and nod whenever possible. Raised on the east coast but with a Midwest charm, he majored in Math at

Notre Dame. Before entering the big leagues, he taught high school math in Mississippi for two years. As the years progress, he hopes to be as cool as his dad; one cup of coffee at a time.



Br. Raphael Christianson

I was born and raised in the small southern Minnesota town of Owatonna, home to Minnesota's second largest tourist attraction (a Cabela's store). I graduated from Carleton College in Northfield, MN with a B.A. in Physics and a minor in Spanish Language and Literature. During a

college study abroad program in Madrid, Spain, I stayed with a host family who lived two blocks away from a Dominican parish; this was my first experience with the Dominicans. Before joining the Order, I lived in Chicago, IL and somehow found a way to use my physics degree by working for an engineering company as the sales/customer service representative.



Br. Vincent Dávila

Formerly Bernabé Dávila, I was born in Madrid, Spain in 1988, the oldest of four children born to Bernabé and Maravillas. I have two brothers, Pablo (20) and Rodrigo (6), and a sister, María del Mar (13). In 1994, my family moved to Fishers, Indiana, where I grew up. I went to Purdue University, where

I obtained my Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. At Purdue, I encountered the Dominican friars running the campus parish, St. Thomas Aquinas, and fell in love with their mission: preaching for the salvation of souls! Graduating in May 2010, I decided to answer the call that began years before and enter the Dominican Novitiate!



Br. Nathaniel Gee

I was raised in Aurora, IL and graduated from West Aurora High School in 2005. By the Grace of God I was recruited by Loras College, in Dubuque, IA to play football and run track, which I did all four years. While at Loras I was pursued by and equally pursued our Lord and the truth of His Love relentlessly. I

went through RCIA my sophomore year and switched my majors to Philosophy & Religious Studies of which I graduated with a double Bachelors in 2009. This past year the Lord blessed me with the opportunity to teach Religious Studies at Columbus Catholic High School as well as lead the men's and woman's track team as their head coach. In pursuit of Love, my restless heart would not rest until I let go completely and discerned religious life from the inside... I recognized that the Lord had something He wanted to show me... who was I- who am I- to say no?



Br. Samuel Hakeem

I was born in Albuquerque, NM, and spent most of my childhood with my brother, sister, and cousins. Led by our fearless Jiddou (Arabic for grandpa), we went on many adventures over the years. This adventurous spirit planted in my heart at an early age the dream

of someday being an astronaut. The dream led me to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, AZ, where I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Space Physics. During my college years, I did what I could to evade God's persistent call to discern religious life. After all, I already had my life planned out. God smiled and said, "I'll wait." Finally during my senior year, I gave in and began to discern. After graduating, I completed a year of PhD studies in Optical Science and Engineering at the University of New Mexico, where I met the Dominicans who staff the Newman Center. After further discernment, I decided to leave my PhD studies and answer God's call to the Dominican Novitiate.



Br. David Provost

I was born in Evansville, Indiana where I spent most of my life. After graduating from Mater Dei High School, I moved down to Atlanta to study rock and jazz guitar styles at the Atlanta Institute of Music. Once the year-long guitar program was completed, I moved up to Indiana University in

Bloomington where I majored in Ethnomusicology. This past year, I was living down in Atlanta where I played in a band and worked for Music Matters, Inc. teaching middle-school-age kids how to play in rock bands through a program called "Rock U."



Br. Benedict Romero

I came to the Order of Preachers searching for a healthy mix of the contemplative and active lives. With a father in the Navy, I have spent a healthy part of my life moving around the country, but since 1994 I have considered myself a proud Kansan. I graduated from

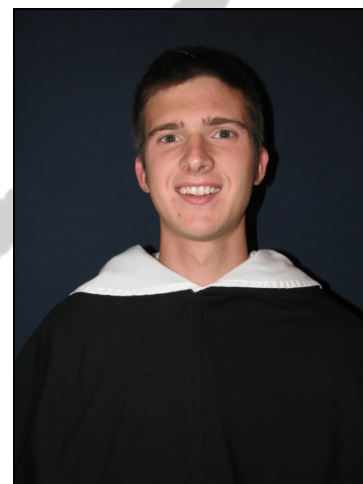
MidAmerica Nazarene University in 2004 with a degree in Scripture, and have since worked extensively with people with special needs, most notably as a team coordinator with Special Olympics Kansas. Feeling God pulling me toward a life of service, I spent some time as a postulant with the Order of St. Benedict, but desired to go out to preach the Good News to the world. After a stint in the Peace Corps, I again began discerning religious life, at which point I turned to the Dominicans.



Br. James Peter Trares

I come to the Dominicans from the small town of Shalersville, Ohio. The greater part of the past four years, however, were spent at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, MI, where I received a BM in Liturgical Music with a minor in Theology this past May. Primarily a

pianist and organist, I served as a substitute accompanist at various parishes while in school. It was at Aquinas College that I was introduced to Dominican life through the influence of the sisters there. Inspired by the strong faith life and Dominican spirit of the Aquinas community, I was led to vocational discernment with the Dominican Friars.



Br. Joe Trout

Born and raised in Fort Wayne, Indiana, I was blessed to grow up in a passionately Catholic family with five sisters and one brother. I met the Dominicans at Purdue University where I studied Mathematics Education and graduated in 2009. For my limbo year between Purdue and the Religious life, I taught

7th and 8th grade math at Northridge Middle School in Crawfordsville, Indiana, while continuing to be a parishioner of St. Tom's Parish at Purdue. I finally awakened the urges of the Holy Spirit and went on the Come and See October of 2009. (In other words, some appropriately pushy Dominicans helped me to get over myself and give in to God.) In the end, my years around the Order of Preachers and the workings of God made it an obvious step to ask for papers and become a friar. It has already been an incredible journey, and I cannot help but praise the Lord for all He has done!