

Julian Osborn Biography

Born May 6, 1997 in Springfield, MO, Julian is 27 and was raised there by a single mom as an only child. Over the years Julian has also called Utah, Colorado and Massachusetts 'home', relocating for both family as well as seasonal work opportunities (following his graduation from high school).

Until age 10, Julian's spiritual exposure was sparse, influenced solely by weekly Pentecostal/evangelical services which he attended with his mother. He describes himself from ages 10 – 23 as an agnostic. In 2019, his love of learning led him to read the Gospels...which, in turn, led him to desire and learn more about God and Christianity, causing him to question his initially held agnostic beliefs. This led him to attend his first Mass.

Julian attended his first Catholic Mass in Springfield. He chose a grand 100+ year-old church with beautiful traditional stained glass windows, massive, brilliant gold tabernacle, huge and stately pillars...very cathedral-like. As Bishop Robert Barron often says, one cannot underestimate the power of the sheer beauty of many of our churches and how that alone can oftentimes first capture the heart of someone who is searching for something...while not yet fully knowing what that exactly is.

Such describes Julian's initial "Catholic" experience. He loved everything about that Mass. Though he didn't follow everything exactly, he attended Mass periodically because he was fascinated by it. But he wasn't yet ready to commit.

In 2020 Julian studied the habits and prayer life of the Benedictine monks. He was drawn to their way of life and the serenity they exuded.

Julian and his mom arrived in Tucson in March, 2021 and settled into an apartment near Swan + Sunrise. By that time, he was convinced that becoming Catholic was what he had been seeking. He searched the internet for Catholic churches in Tucson and discovered St. Thomas the Apostle Parish was within walking distance! He often walked to and attended daily Mass (while not Catholic) and eventually caught the watchful eye of then Parochial Vicar, Fr. Callistus Iyorembere...who approached him one day after Mass to inquire about Julian's story. The rest, as they say, is history. Sort of! After several subsequent discussions of what was on Julian's heart, Fr. Callistus introduced him to Rob Weierman and the St. Thomas RCIA program. Julian happily complied, studied and was received into the Church with the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation at Easter Vigil Mass in 2022.

During his RCIA studies, ongoing discussions between Fr. Callistus and Julian revealed their mutual appreciation of the sacredness and peace of monasteries and Julian's long interest with the Benedictine monks. Father introduced him to [The Abbey of Our Lady of New Clairvaux](#) in Vina, CA where he personally 'retreated' whenever an opportunity presented. Julian accompanied Fr. Callistus there and 'retreated' for three days in October, 2021. Julian's experience was profound. He was captivated by the beauty of the grounds and the peace he experienced praying with the monks. He returned to The Abbey in February, 2022 to spend an entire month in prayer and contemplation, becoming more and more open to the possibility that becoming a priest might follow his conversion to Catholicism.

Serious discernment regarding the priesthood followed his 2022 conversion.

The 'call' of priesthood (he had discerned himself OUT of the idea of pursuing becoming a monk) came when he responded to and attended a Fall 2023 Diocese of Tucson retreat for young men interested in the priesthood. While attending the weekend retreat at Redemptorist Renewal Center in Picture Rocks AZ, Julian interacted with the five first-year Diocesan priests ordained the year prior and listened to their personal stories of what it means to them to live and practice their faith as Catholic priests. That convinced him to contact the Diocese and take the next steps. He applied and was subsequently accepted to be in the initial Conception Seminary [Propaedeutics](#) stage of discernment.

Julian now eagerly awaits integrating into a spiritual community of like-minded young men, studies and spiritual enlightenment and development. What about going away to seminary in Missouri does he consider will be the most challenging in seminary? "Being away from my mom, friends... and cats. I realize it is a sacrifice I have to make to answer God's call and follow Him as a disciple."

Julian's favorite Catholic liturgical season is Holy Week/Triduum/Easter. Perhaps because he was accepted into the church at Easter vigil but primarily because he recognizes the season as the climax of the Church year. He appreciates its intensity and the roller coaster of emotions that accompany it.

Julian chose St. Lawrence as his confirmation saint for his bravery, yet steadfast light-heartedness in the face of adversity and death. For himself, he wishes that same bravery during difficult times together with a light spirit. He also has spiritual affection for the insights and preachings of

Blessed Fulton J. Sheen, St. Hildegard for her Benedictine roots and her composing skills and St. Germaine for her overall spiritual story.

Julian enjoys viewing Bishop Robert Barron offerings on multiple topics and across multiple channels. He is also a fan of the writings of [Fr. J. Augustine Wetta](#) (Benedictine), [Fr. Jacques Phillipe](#), [Fr. Gregory Maria Pine](#) (Dominican) and [Edward Feser](#).

During his leisure time Julian reads, plays guitar, camps/hikes, watches movies.

Among his guiding/favorite scripture and other related quotes are:

*You have said, "Seek my face."
My heart says to you,
"Your face, Lord, do I seek."
Psalm 27:8*

*If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake, he will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?
Luke 9:23-25*

*I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.
John 14:6*

*An adventure is only an inconvenience rightly considered. An inconvenience is only an adventure wrongly considered.
G.K. Chesterton*

Besides Mass, Julian's other personally valued Catholic traditions are Eucharistic Adoration and the Rosary.

During his first year of [Propaedeutics](#) at Conception Seminary, Julian thanks parishioners for their friendship and humbly asks for your continued prayers.