

# Meet the archdiocese's three ordinands

Deacons Daniel E. Brouillette, Kevin T. DeLerno and Nile C. Gross will be ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of New Orleans June 6 at 10 a.m. at St. Louis Cathedral. Here is a brief look at each of the ordinands.

## Deacon Daniel E. Brouillette

**Age:** 26

**Home Parish:** St. Peter, Covington

**Parents:** Deborah and Vincent Brouillette

**Education:** He attended Our Lady of Prompt Succor School, Chalmette, through second grade, graduated from St. Peter in Covington and St. Paul's School. He entered St. Joseph Seminary College in 2001 and entered Notre Dame Seminary in 2005.

**Why did you pursue the priesthood?** "I am a cradle Catholic. Prayer in the home, with my family, has played a central role throughout my life. I first heard the call to the priesthood when I was 6 or 7 years old. I can remember my grandfather, Vincent Brouillette Sr., telling me that there was no better vocation in life than to be a Catholic priest. That conversation that I had with him when I was only 6 or 7 stuck with me for the past 20 years."

**Who will be the priest who vests you at your ordination Mass?** Father Pat Wattigny. "I met Father Pat when I was in fourth grade. St. Peter's (in Covington) was his first assignment, and he was 26. He was my age when he was ordained. He's been my mentor for the last 14 years. He's the priest who's been most influential in my vocation to the priesthood. He has a genuine zeal for life and love of youth. I've been around priests before, who were fabulous priests but didn't necessarily try to foster those vocations in the young ones, and Father Pat really did. He's turned out so many vocations through his altar servers and the kids that he ministers to at Rummel. That immediately grabbed me. It was his holiness. It was his youth and his excitement for priestly ministry."

**Where did you serve during your years of seminary formation?** "I served at St. Benilde in Metairie, St. Andrew the Apostle in New Orleans, St. Francis Xavier in Metairie and completed a diaconate internship at Our Lady of Divine Providence in Metairie."

**Masses of Thanksgiving:** June 7, 2 p.m., St. Peter Church, Covington, followed by blessings in Saint Mary's Hall; June 13, 4 p.m. Vigil, Our Lady of Divine Providence, Metairie, followed by blessings in Bahan Center; June 14, 11 a.m., Saint Benilde, Metairie, followed by blessings in cafeteria.



## Deacon Kevin T. DeLerno

**Age:** 35

**Home Parish:** St. Edward the Confessor, Metairie

**Parents:** Christian W. DeLerno and Patricia Ann Brennan DeLerno

**Education:** St. Edward the Confessor, Archbishop Rummel High, Delgado College (associate's degree); then he worked at various jobs at Wal-Mart, a sporting goods store and a sign company before entering Notre Dame Seminary (where he earned a master's degree in theology). He also attended St. Joseph College at St. Benedict Abbey. Deacon DeLerno also received a bachelors of arts in general studies from Our Lady of Holy Cross College.

**Why did you pursue the priesthood?** During a LifeTeen retreat, he overheard a youth director telling two teens that a priest had died and needed someone to take his place. "At that moment I heard a clear, unmistakable, internal voice say to me, 'I want that for you,'" Deacon DeLerno said. He entered Notre Dame Seminary six months later. Deacon DeLerno also said his studies strengthened his prayer life. "During these last eight years I have come to grow in a strong personal relationship with Jesus Christ as well as God the Father and the Holy Spirit."

**Who will be the priest who vests you at your ordination Mass?** Father Joseph Benson. "He's been my spiritual director for a number of years. He's a very humble man. He does have a close relationship with Jesus, and you can tell that especially through his spiritual direction. He really knows who God is, that's one of the main things. For me, one of the attributes of a priest is to know who God is, to be close to God and to be able to show God to those people that we talk to, to those people we minister to. In other words, to be God – that's one of the things I strive for. We are to be 'Persona Christi,' the presence of Jesus to those we minister to."

**Where did you serve during your years of seminary formation?** St. Matthew the Apostle, River Ridge; Mary Queen of Peace, Mandeville; and St. Peter Claver, New Orleans. He also completed a parish internship at St. Clement of Rome, Metairie, and served as an intern chaplain at Methodist Hospital, San Antonio.

**Mass of Thanksgiving:** June 7, 2 p.m., St. Edward the Confessor Church, Metairie.



## Deacon Nile C. Gross

**Age:** 31

**Home Parish:** St. Patrick, New Orleans

**Parents:** Nile A. Gross and Vicki D. Horn

**Education:** St. Ann School, Metairie; Jesuit High School, co-valedictorian in 1995; bachelor's degree in English literature from Tulane University in 1999.

**Why did you pursue the priesthood?** Deacon Gross was working as vice president of a construction company in September 2001 and had grown distant from his faith when he went to New York for a Yankees-Red Sox series. The day after returning to New Orleans, terrorists flew planes into the World Trade Center. Deacon Gross said he "recognized an emptiness in my soul." One of his construction jobs was renovating some buildings at St. Patrick Church on Camp Street. He walked into the dark church one morning and "realized I was home and that I was Catholic."

**Who will be the priest who vests you at your ordination Mass?** Msgr. Charles Duke of St. Ann and Father Stanley Klores of St. Patrick. "Msgr. Duke was my pastor growing up, and from what he has told me, I will be the first person ever to be ordained from St. Ann School. I also will have Father Klores assist Msgr. Duke. Msgr. Duke was very traditional. I know he loved Mary very much. My fondest childhood memories would be when he used to make us do the May crowning. If you missed the May crowning, you'd better be dead, because that was the most important thing for him. You'd have to come for three straight Saturdays and pray the rosary with him if you missed it. He had a very reverent Mass. Msgr. Duke and Father Klores are the only two pastors I've had in my life. It is a true blessing."

**Where did you serve during your years of seminary formation?** St. Rita, Harahan; Our Lady of Divine Providence, Metairie; and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Belle Chasse. He also completed his clinical pastoral education at Emory Hospital in Atlanta.

**Masses of Thanksgiving:** June 7, 11 a.m., St. Patrick Church, New Orleans; June 13, 5 p.m., and June 14, 10:30 a.m., Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Belle Chasse; June 20, 4 p.m., St. Ann Church, Metairie; June 21, 10:30 a.m., Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Kenner.



FR. WATTIGNY



FR. BENSON



MSGR. DUKE



FR. KLORES