



# *Alums "Making a Difference"*

Father Craig Holway

Aquinas-Mercy

Class of 1996

I graduated from Aquinas Mercy High School in 1996. After that, I went to the University of Missouri- St. Louis where I took a degree in English, with an emphasis in American Literature. After graduating from college in 2001 I went to work in the non-profit sector doing development work. I did that for four years, both here in St. Louis and for seven months in Columbia, Missouri.

I suppose I've been discerning a vocation to the priesthood for most of my life, certainly since 8th grade. But I got distracted by many things, and to paraphrase Robert Frost, way leads on to way. But the way I was traveling brought me back to seriously consider answering the call to the priesthood in April of 2005 when Pope John Paul II died. While watching the news coverage of his funeral and the election of the new pope, my heart and mind were reenergized and singularly focused on the call God had for me. By Mother's Day of 2005 God broke my stubborn will and I chose to answer His call: I called the Vocation Office of the Archdiocese and began a series of interviews and meetings. By the end of July, I quit my job, gave away most of my things, cashed in my 401 K to pay off my bills, and was accepted into the seminary in August 2005. Five years later, after a lot of prayer, study, and pastoral experience, I was ordained a priest on May 29, 2010 by Archbishop Robert Carlson.



I look back on my time at Aquinas Mercy with much gratitude. I know how important my time at Aquinas Mercy was. Both the academic and extra-curricular activities that I was involved in: the Drama club, student government, newspaper, and campus ministry have contributed so much to the person that I am today and to the priest I will be. I had so many great teachers. A few that my memory preserves are Tim Quinn, Pat Moore, Deb Schuey, Jim Grumich, Dan Reardon, Celeste Jordon: these were great people and great teachers. For them I am so grateful.

I was involved in campus ministry when I was at Aquinas Mercy. The campus minister at the time was Bill Dill. He was a good man: totally on fire with the Love of Jesus; totally dedicated to preaching the Gospel; totally dedicated to the students. He once told me he thought I had a vocation to the priesthood. I disagreed. It turns out he was right. It took me 11 years to see that God was indeed calling me to be a priest for His Church and for His people.