

THE PASTOR'S POST

SEMINARIAN NICK

Hello everyone and happy (still) Easter! You might remember me saying when I first arrived at St. Brigid's last September that I would be finishing my time here on Mother's Day. You might also notice that Mother's Day was two weeks ago and I'm still roaming around the parish. I promise I haven't forgotten to look at a calendar. I thought I'd begin by letting everyone know that instead of moving to another assignment this summer, my time with you all has been extended into the summer! I'm not one bit upset! Instead, I will remain at Saint Brigid's until late July before returning to Rome for the fall. I'm looking forward to the next two months.

The other day I spent an evening with my sister and brother-in-law watching a movie and eating pizza. It's a tradition we started during the months I lived with them throughout the pandemic. When it's my pick for a movie, I usually choose from the few movies in my limited film repertoire: *The Revenant*, *Dumb and Dumber*, or something with Will Ferrell. The other day, my brother-in-law picked the movie, and since he's a huge baseball fan, we watched *Moneyball*. I've seen it a few times, but for some reason I was really struck this time. The movie is loosely based on the story of the Oakland A's. The head coach of the A's, along with a recently hired college graduate, devise a computer algorithm to find hidden talent in the "bargain-bin" players whom scouts have labelled as insignificant or undertalented. With a shoe-string budget, they search out and hire these players and form a team of players who are seemingly "nobody's" in the baseball world. This team ends up breaking the decades-long losing streak of the A's after a series of victories. The rest I will leave out so as not to spoil the plot.

I was struck by this movie because in these weeks after Easter, the readings at mass focus a lot on stories about "bargain-bin" players forming a

winning team. In many of the readings, we hear from the Acts of the Apostles which talks about the great courage of the Apostles in spreading the Christian faith after Jesus' ascension. They are constantly facing threats of execution and torture from Jewish authorities if they do not stop speaking about "the way" that is Jesus Christ. They were fearless and bold in their preaching by their words and how they lived. These stories almost make us forget that these were the same guys who were constantly denying Jesus and bickering about who was the greatest among them. Remember, these were the same guys who were fisherman and tax collectors at one point. Simply put, they were in the "bargain-bin" of players. And yet, Jesus chose them by name to follow him and to one day bear the fruit we are hearing about in the readings today. It's as though Jesus has his own "algorithm" to see something in the Apostles and in others something nobody else could see. Jesus is forming a winning team.

Does Jesus do the same today for you and me? I think it's very easy to see ourselves as "bargain-bin" players when it comes to spreading good news of our faith. I often assume that there's much more effective people than myself to do this job of evangelizing. Think about the great public speakers, coaches, or leaders who have lived in our time. It's easy to ask: "how effective can I really be?" or "how can someone like *me* be able to change hearts?" In a way, it's true, we are "bargain-bin" players in the work of sharing our faith. There are often people with more talent, more resources, more tact to be spreading the faith than us. Yet, in some way, Jesus called you and I. Jesus is not blind or naïve, he sees something in you and I that we ourselves can't see, and he forms a team that is the Church. What Jesus sees in us is a heart.



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SEMINARIAN NICK/SEMINARISTA NICK

I see this reality often when I walk through the parish in places like outreach, the sacristy, or the school. Most likely, we've all ended up on this "team" not because we've counted ourselves as especially qualified and fit to fill the role of working in the Lord's vineyard. Rather, we've all come here as a response to a call from the Lord to serve him. Our Church is the bargain team, from you and I all the way up to Pope Leo XIV! We've all answered the call in some way and have been challenged to live more intensely in the Lord's tender love. Maybe you're hesitant to answer the Lord's call to a particular ministry or to simply take a serious step in practicing your faith. I hope these words and stories from the Scriptures come as a source of encouragement. After all, Jesus sees something in you and he calls you by name!

Seminarian Nick



SAVE THE DATE

The Pontifical North American College
Ordination to the Diaconate

Nicholas Waldron

OCT 2nd 2025

Papal Basilica of Saint Peter in the Vatican

Queridas y felices (todavía) Pascuas!

Puede que me recordéis diciendo cuando llegué por primera vez a Santa Brígida el pasado mes de septiembre que terminaría mi estancia aquí el Día de la Madre. También os habréis dado cuenta de que el Día de la Madre fue hace dos semanas y todavía estoy deambulando por la parroquia. Prometo que no me he olvidado de mirar el calendario. Para empezar, quería informaros de que, en lugar de trasladarse a otro destino este verano, ¡mi tiempo con todos vosotros se ha prolongado hasta el verano! No estoy nada disgustado. En cambio, permaneceré en Santa Brígida hasta finales de julio antes de regresar a Roma para el otoño. Estoy deseando que lleguen los próximos dos meses.

El otro día pasé una tarde con mi hermana y mi cuñado viendo una película y comiendo pizza. Es una tradición que iniciamos durante los meses que viví con ellos durante la pandemia. Cuando elijo la película yo suelo elegir una de las pocas películas de mi limitado repertorio cinematográfico: *The Revenant*, *Dumb and Dumber* o alguna con Will Ferrell. El otro día, mi cuñado eligió la película, y como es un gran aficionado al béisbol, vimos *Moneyball*. La he visto unas cuantas veces, pero por alguna razón esta vez me llamó mucho la atención. La película se basa libremente en la historia de los A's de Oakland. El entrenador de los A's, junto con un universitario recién contratado, idean un algoritmo informático para encontrar el talento oculto en los jugadores "de saldo" a los que los ojeadores han tachado de insignificantes o poco talentosos. Con un presupuesto reducido, buscan y contratan a estos jugadores y forman un equipo de jugadores que aparentemente no son "nadie" en el mundo del béisbol. Este equipo acaba rompiendo la racha de décadas de derrotas de los A's tras una serie de victorias. El resto lo omitiré para no estropear la trama de la película.

