

# BONA-FIDE CAT'Y



<https://archomaha.org/vocations/seminary-life/#seminarians-class1>

Seminarian: **Paul Floersch**

Parish/Town: **St. Robert Bellarmine, Omaha**  
**Seminary: North American College, Rome** (*Priestly formation for diocesan seminarians from the United States under the special patronage of the Holy See.*)

Favorite homemade food or meal: **Meat Loaf and Mashed Potatoes**

The least favorite thing your parents make or made you do: **My dad used to cut my hair with a vacuum cleaner machine called a Flowbee. Look it up online when you get a chance. I looked like I got my haircut by a weed-wacker.**

Favorite cartoon when growing up: **Scooby Dooby Doo!!**

Your favorite Marvel hero: **Captain America because I'm 'Merican.**

The worst thing you have ever tasted: **I love all food. I have eaten glue once by accident though. I don't recommend it.**

Three events that made the biggest impact on who you are today: **The first time I had a toasted PB&J. The first time I saw St. Paul's Basilica in Rome. And the first time my dad encouraged me to play soccer.**

What childish thing do you still enjoy doing: **I love gym games. For example, sometimes I try to convince my friends to play line-tag but these days they usually don't join. They're old farts.**

Fun/Funny event or memory at the seminary: **In Rome, there is an international soccer tournament against all the national seminaries. Last year, we won and it was as if we won the World Cup!**

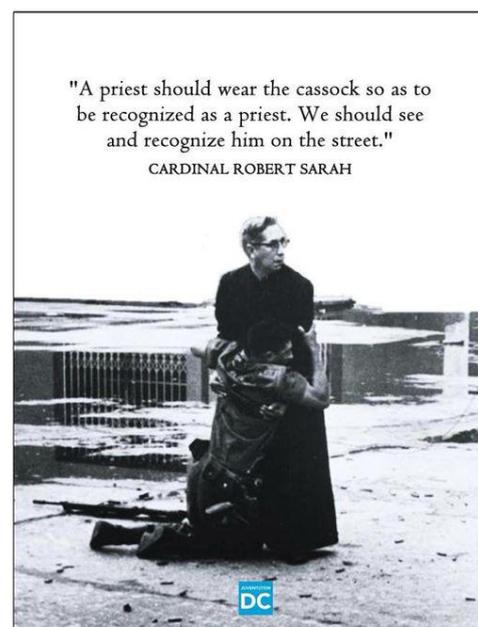


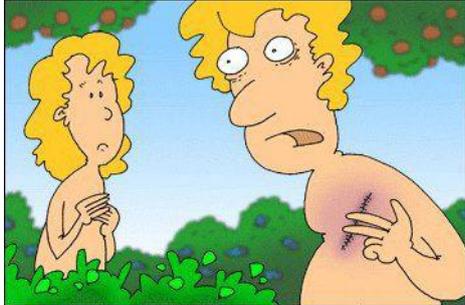
**Q: What is the symbolism of the Roman Catholic Cassock?**

The symbolism of the cassock is as follows: The Roman collar symbolizes *obedience*; the sash or cincture around the waist, *chastity*; and the color black, *poverty*. Moreover, black is a color of *mourning and death*; for the priest, the symbolism is *dying to oneself to rise and to serve the Lord as well as giving witness of the Kingdom yet to come*.

A Roman cassock has 33 buttons down the front. The 33 buttons on a Roman cassock represents our *Lord Christ's earthly years*. Five other buttons on each wrist are for the *five wounds* He suffered on the cross. When the priest's hands are held together, these five buttons from each hand represent the *Ten Commandments*.

Three pleats in the back stand for the *Triune God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit*. Seven inch cuffs tell us of the story of *Creation* and the one inch hole at the neck represents the *Oneness of God*. The shoulder coat represents the *protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary*.





Met dank aan Jon LeBlanc (Gebaseerd op Genesis 1:1-2:3) 02-01-2010  
 YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH PAIN IS INVOLVED IN BRINGING ANOTHER PERSON INTO THIS WORLD

**Q: What does a white collar represent on a Catholic priest?**

In the Roman Catholic Church, the *clerical collar* is worn by all ranks of clergy, thus: bishops, priests, and deacons, and often by seminarians who have been admitted to candidacy for the priesthood as well as with their cassock during liturgical celebrations. The *clerical, or Roman collar* is a sign or mark of a person's holy calling. It is an identifying badge that can be recognized by people of all faiths. Worn by both Anglican and Roman Catholic priests around the world, the narrow, stiff, upright white collar fastens at the back.



PSSST!! It's easiest to discern with a clean soul no matter what your vocation will be!!



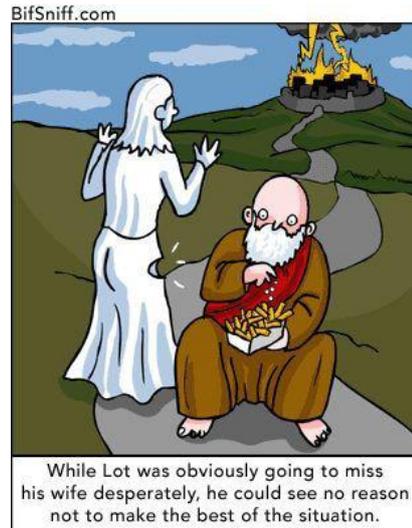
**Catholic Problems #148**

"So why did you guys add a bunch of books to the bible?"

Spiritually, the white collar has become representative of a priest's consecration to God and his role as someone set apart for priestly service. Some priests see it as a symbol of their "slavery" to God, showing the world who is their true Master.

Additionally, because many priests find it rather uncomfortable, the collar has become a way of performing a daily penance to God, offering up the sacrifice for the people the priest serves.

The collar remains a distinctive sign of the priest's availability and the permanent nature of Holy Orders. The priest "is not his own" and is a visible sign of Jesus Christ, present in the midst of everyday life, ready to reconcile sinners and bring souls back to God. -*Aleteia*



The key phrase I would use to describe my own discernment is "gradual but constant." I never had a great epiphany, though one of those would have been eagerly welcomed! Instead I would say that my discernment journey could be described as a consistent trail of miniature epiphanies filled with countless conversations, books, friendships and, most especially, prayer.

Because of its uniqueness, the priesthood has always captured my curiosity. It is a vocation that in the eyes of the world seems like nothing more than a heavy cross. When I was young, I thought as the world does. However, as I grew older and got to truly know priests I realized these men were, at their core, filled with joy. -*Rev. Mr. Paul Floersch*

**Catholic Problems #46 "Why don't Catholic read the Bible?"**