



**Brian Schoppe** and his family have been members of St. Matthias Catholic Church since 2012 when they moved here from Houston, TX. He is 20 years old and the youngest of four siblings, who all share close bonds. His family enjoys spending time together playing games, camping, swimming, boating, and going to their farm near College Station. When he and his brother, Wes, were young, they would act as priests offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, so it was not too surprising to see that he has chosen to pursue a religious vocation.

He also has had a good role model in his sister, Shannon, who was previously in monastic formation as a Passionist nun. In high school, Brian developed a very deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and made his consecration to Jesus through Mary.

While attending Texas A&M University, Brian majored in Landscape Architecture and was very active in ministries associated with St. Mary's Catholic Church, which serves the Catholic students attending A&M. It was during his sophomore year that Brian felt a definite call to a religious vocation during prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament. With prayer and guidance from a priest who was his spiritual advisor and some guidance from Fr. Chris, he started the quest to find the place where he felt God was calling him. That quest ended with a visit to the Monks of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel near Cody, Wyoming.

The Monks of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel is a monastic, cloistered Roman Catholic community founded in the Rocky Mountains of northwestern Wyoming near Yellowstone National Park. In the solitude and silence of the mountain wilderness, the Carmelite monks of Wyoming seek to perpetuate the charism of the Blessed Virgin Mary by living the Marian life as prescribed by the primitive Carmelite Rule and the ancient monastic observance of Carmelite men. The Carmelite monk may aspire to be a lay brother who sanctifies his day through manual labor in an agrarian way of life or a priest who celebrates the Sacraments, gives spiritual direction, and preaches retreats to the monastery's retreatants. Once mature in the spiritual life, a Carmelite monk may aspire to become a solitary anchoritic hermit-monk in the mountains, alone with God.

Brian entered the monastery as an observer on August 25, 2019 and was clothed in the Carmelite postulant's habit on September 12, 2019, the feast of the Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He and his superiors will continue to discern what direction Our Lord is calling him. Please keep him in your prayers and he will keep you and your families in his.