



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: JOSHUA BERTRAND

In October 2019, Joshua Bertrand was ordained in Rome as a deacon for the Diocese of St. Petersburg. He was vested by Father Justin Paskert, the Director of the Catholic Student Union at USF, and his ordination was attended by family, friends (including a few former college classmates), and Bishop Gregory Parkes.

Joshua graduated from USF in 2012 with a degree in History. During his time at USF, he served as an officer and president of the CSU. Some of his favorite memories of his time with the CSU are retreats at the old and very rustic Tomahawk Lodge in Dunnellon, FL, during which, he recalls, "We never could really figure out how the heater worked, but we were still warm with the love for the Lord that we all shared." The CSU, and especially his ability to spend quiet time in the chapel there, are what ultimately led Joshua to recognize God's call to the priesthood. He was confirmed by Father Alan Weber while he was a student and is now in his final year at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

Over the next few months, Joshua is excited to grow in his ability to "be an instrument of God's love and mercy in the world in a unique way." His time in Rome has been particularly meaningful, as he has gotten to witness the Universal Church in a special way due to the diverse array of cultures represented at the seminary. He has also been grateful to see firsthand many aspects of the historic papacy of our current pope, who has been a role model to Joshua.

Joshua continues to look back on his college memories with fondness, and he looks forward to the day when he will return to the CSU to celebrate Mass and give back to the place that was so instrumental in his journey to a deeper relationship with Christ.



Making these visits back to the USF Campus and the Catholic Student Center always causes me to have joy. The Lord blessed me in this place, and I have never been the same. The ability to return to that place and offer thanksgiving is a grace that I am forever grateful for.