

Tristan P. Dillon

Hometown: St. George, UT

Level: 4th College, Mount Angel Seminary, OR

While I've had a number of fantastic experiences after three years in the seminary, our annual College Beach Weekend is the most important for me. All of the undergraduates look forward to this weekend as a time to escape the normal everyday grind of school and spend time growing in fraternity.

There is something deeply spiritual for me when it comes to going out into the wilderness, something ephemeral that is difficult for me to put into words. The Oregon coast, the destination of our trip, is a place where I can easily open up and pray and be in natural communication with God. One of the central parts of the weekend is when we gather and have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on the beach. Being able to pray before the Eucharist and hear the crashing of the waves has become one of my greatest pleasures. I have never had any particular revelations nor sudden understandings, but as I see 60 of my brothers gathered in prayer and kneeling on the beach, I can tangibly feel that I am part of the Body of Christ.