

CARDINAL RITTER BIRTHPLACE FOUNDATION

A Ritter Moment

1917 Seminary Graduation and Ordination

Each year on May 30 we recall, and in our hearts celebrate, the anniversary of Elmer Joseph Ritter’s seminary graduation and ordination.

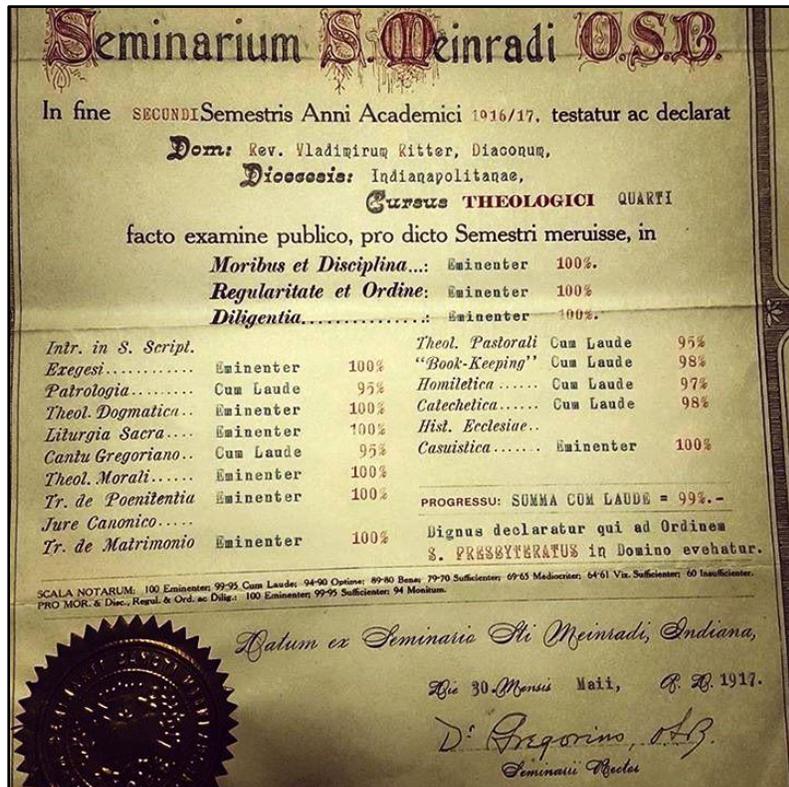
The next day Fr. Ritter celebrated his First Mass with the people of St. Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church, his home parish in New Albany, Indiana.

On June 4, he officiated at his first wedding ceremony – that of his brother Frank and Lula May Kraft.

On July 7 he was appointed to St. Patrick’s Church in Indianapolis as Curate, and on October 12 was assigned to Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral as assistant to Bishop Chartrand.

So began a half-century of priestly life, which he longed for since early childhood. He often said. “I simply always wanted to be a priest.”

In 1917 he became that – and much more.



“The archives of [Indianapolis] contains the parchments regarding both his final grade as a student - it was 99½ percent and he received the degree “Summa Cum Laude,” and the document attesting to his ordination to the priesthood. They both contain the word “Vladimirium” for his first name, someone having decided it as the appropriate Latin equivalent of Elmer. He was also listed in the Academic Report for that year as “Prefect of the Seminary,” a role he served in his diaconate year.”

- From “Joseph Elmer Cardinal Ritter – His Life and Times” by Monsignor Nicholas A. Schneider.