

Hello! Br. Eoin Pol here. A brief word about my name before I go any further: it's Gaelic for John Paul, after our late great Pope, and is pronounced "Owen Pole" (or "Paul" if you don't mind straying a bit from proper Irish phonetics).

So, I am one of the ten Friars here at the Newark Friary, which means that my habit, much like myself, isn't quite broken in yet. Not to worry, though, because the Novitiate has a habit of taking care of that.

"What made you want to do this? How did you end up here?" We get these questions a lot. In fact, a young guy just asked me that about an hour ago. For me, that answer begins before my much needed college conversion and even before my parents evangelized me at home. At the risk of sounding overly dramatic, I will say that God has loved me and has had a plan for my life from the moment of my conception and part of that plan, as far as I can tell, is to be a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal.

One of the more significant dramas in the story of my personal reform played out in college. I had been somewhat involved in the party scene at The Florida State University for about a year and a half when God suddenly showed up. I experienced His personal love for me, particularly in the Holy Eucharist, and I wanted to change my life. It was hard to change, though. I had a lot to lose: friends, habits, social life, respect. But I came to realize that I can lose nothing by coming to Christ, I can only gain. I came to realize that He is enough for me.

After college I served in the military for seven years, which was a good and formative experience, but my heart was restless. I am beginning to see that my being here, my desire to live this life, has more to do with God's loving plan for me than anything else; even more than my having fallen in love with Him. "You have made me, O God, to live forever in Your love, and my heart will not rest until it rests in You."

Thanks for hitting our website. Keep checking back so you can meet the other Brothers—we're an interesting bunch. As for me, I am happy to be here and thoroughly enjoying this life!

Peace!