Hello fellow theologians! My name is Caroline and I’m a Science Preprofessional and Theology major from Oklahoma with a minor in Science, Technology, and Values. Like many people on their first visit to Notre Dame, I was initially struck by the faith-focused community—at once in love with the religious and spiritual presence that grace Notre Dame in tradition and community. At first, the emblems and sacred spaces that permeate Notre Dame, especially the Word of Life mural (colloquially known as “Touchdown Jesus”), Basilica, and Grotto served simply as a comforting reminder of God’s presence. However, my experiences studying theology at Notre Dame have profoundly changed my understanding, appreciation, and perspective of Biblical study, the sacred mysteries, and encountering Jesus in everyday life.

I first fell in love with theology during Dr. Cavadini’s course, *The Catholic Faith*, which presented the fundamentals of Catholicism while equally encouraging questioning and reflection. Fr. Anatolios’s course, *The Trinity* has been another influential course from which I learned to perceive the fundamental ways in which the Trinity shapes not only Christianity and Catholicism, but also everyday life.

Experiencing God through theological study has been an incredibly valuable and effective way to question and develop my faith, one that is simultaneously academically and spiritually fulfilling. This development has illuminated other areas of my life, as well as provided a foundation for future challenges in medicine related to purpose, suffering, and human dignity. In future courses I look forward to studying world religions to better understand, appreciate, and relate to diverse perspectives, as well as deepening my own understanding of theology through History of Christianity and systematic theology.