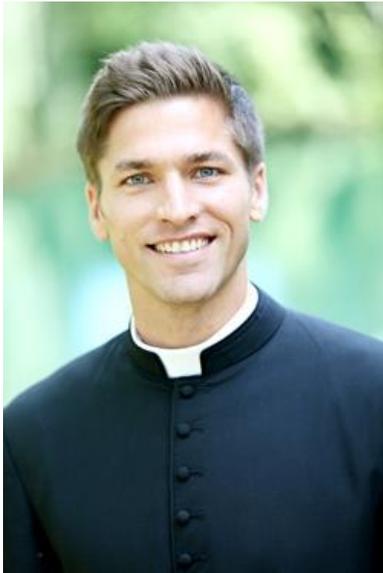


## **Pioneer Hall of Fame: Chase M. Hilgenbrinck, class of 2000**



The University High School Alumni Association honors Chase M. Hilgenbrinck, class of 2000, as a 2014 Hall of Fame Alumni Award recipient for his contributions to his profession and civic service.

Hilgenbrinck graduated from University High School in 2000 after a very successful soccer career which included state and national honors, as well as various academic honor awards. In high school, Hilgenbrinck twice made the United States Under-17 National Team, in 1997 and 1998. He was a First Team All-State in 1997, 1998, and 1999, named as a member of the NSCAA All-Midwest Team in 1998 and 1999, and was an NSCAA All-American in 1999. He was also named an ADIDAS Elite Soccer Program All-Star in 1997, 1998, and 1999. After graduation, Hilgenbrinck continued his soccer career at Clemson University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and International Trade. He was a three-year starter and a member of the 2001 Atlantic Coast Conference Championship team. He was also a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, a National Leadership Honor Society. During college, when many students exercised their independence and skipped Mass, Hilgenbrinck continued to go to Church, out of habit. It was then that he realized what his faith was all about. He started having a passion for Scripture.

After graduating from Clemson University in 2004, Hilgenbrinck left for South America and played professional soccer for Club Deportiva Huachipato in Talcahuano, Chile. In 2005, He played for Club Deportes Naval, also in Talcahuano, Chile. In 2006, he played for Club Deportivo Ñublense, in Chillan, Chile. Two years later, in 2008, Hilgenbrinck returned to the United States and played professional soccer for the Colorado Rapids in Denver, Colorado and the New England Revolution, in Boston, Massachusetts. In his professional soccer career, Hilgenbrinck was voted the "Best XI" in the Chilean Second Division in 2005 and 2006, an award distinguishing the best player in the Left Fullback position.

In 2008, Hilgenbrinck made the decision to resign from professional soccer and follow a calling to another profession, priesthood. The passion for Scripture he gained during college called Hilgenbrinck, a lifelong active Catholic, to enter the Catholic Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland in order to become a priest. He spent the next six years studying theology and philosophy with the hopes of being ordained as a Roman Catholic Priest. Hilgenbrinck was ordained a deacon for his home diocese of Peoria, Illinois and was ordained a priest in that diocese on May 24, 2014.

While studying to become a priest, Hilgenbrinck volunteered his services to the community. In 2010 and 2011, he served as a volunteer assistant in the Theology Department at St. Maria Goretti High School. In 2011 and 2012, he provided prison ministry at the Maryland Correctional Institute. And in 2012 and 2013, he volunteered time to an immigration lawyer, preparing Unlawful Presence Waivers on behalf of illegal immigrants in Washington, D.C.

He is the son of Mike and Kim Hilgenbrinck and brother to Blaise '99. Both Hilgenbrinck and Blaise served as altar boys at Holy Trinity Church in Bloomington, Illinois.

“Even though I didn't spend a lot of time with him and I didn't play a lot with him, the impression he leaves on people is lasting. Chase isn't only my friend, but he's a role model to me. I respect the man that he is and what he's doing in his life.”

– *Wells Thompson, former Revolution teammate*