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By Susan Slusser, Vlae Kershner, [Read Bios](#)

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Grant Desme discusses decision to become priest

From Chronicle Staff Writer Susan Slusser

Outfielder Grant Desme just told reporters on a conference call that he truly felt called to the priesthood and that he will enter a Catholic seminary, St. Michael's Abbey in Orange County, in August.

Desme, the Arizona Fall League MVP, said he has been considering becoming a priest for a year and a half, but he had decided to play last season as almost a test of sorts. His sensational season of Class-A ball, and his fine Fall League, convinced him all the more that he must follow his calling to the church.

"I'm doing well in baseball," he said. "But I had to get down to the bottom of things, to what was good in my life, what I wanted to do with my life. Baseball is a good thing, but that felt selfish of me when I felt that God was calling me more. It took awhile to trust that and open up to it and aim full steam toward him.

"I love the game, but I'm going to aspire to higher things."

Desme said he had been unsure how he would react after telling general manager Billy Beane about his decision yesterday, but he felt very much at peace afterward.

The news was a shock to Beane, Desme said, but the A's have been supportive, which he appreciates, and his family and friends also have backed him strongly. He said once news of his retirement broke on Friday morning, his phone had been flooded with calls and texts from well-wishers.

Asked about the possibility of continuing to play minor-league baseball while also attending the seminary, which has been done in the past, Desme said, "No. I want to give my life completely to God out of love because of everything he's done for me."

Desme said that the process of becoming a priest will take about 10 years. "It's like re-entering the minor leagues," he said.

"I desire and hope to become a priest," he said. "But it's all up to God."

Posted By: Susan Slusser (Email, Twitter) | January 22 2010 at 02:21 PM

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More power to him if that's his calling.

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How do you leave sure success, big money and a game you love? That last line... "I want to give my life completely to God out of love because of everything he's done for me." Unless you've experienced God's love like he has, this decision doesn't make sense. If you have, but it makes total sense.

