

# WELCOME OUR NEW SEMINARIAN RONALD TORRES

I am Ronald Torres. I was born and raised in the Philippines. When I was a child my grandmother took me to church daily to pray and to hear Mass. From an early age, I was brought up loving God and having fear of Him. Going to Mass regularly and reciting the rosary was my routine. My siblings often teased me as the “little priest” in the family.

My parents are my best teachers. I learned to live a very simple life. I felt an internal motivation to continue what they planted in me- the seed of priestly vocation. My desire to answer God’s calling was very clear even when I was just a little kid.

I was actively involved in parish programs and activities in my home town parish church in the Philippines. I was the Parish Youth Coordinator and the youngest member of the Parish Pastoral Council and also the youngest to lead/head the Charismatic Movement in the diocese. I was also commissioned as Special Minister to the Eucharist and Lector/Commentator during the celebration of the Eucharist. I was active in the Healing Ministry of the parish wherein we visited the sick, elderly and poor. I was moved emphatically with the physical sufferings for those we visited. I was moved to pursue my calling.

In my years of discerning the call of God, I went up to a place nearer to God in worship. The Convent of the Pink Sisters in Baguio City, Philippines brought me enlightenment to strengthen my bond with God. Paying visits regularly to the Blessed Sacrament intensified my call to the priesthood. There was also an intense feeling of joy every time I attend Mass. I served as a sacristan in the said convent. During this year, 1996, I was employed as a classroom teacher.

It was in 1997 that my heart totally followed the call. I was 27 years old when Holy Apostle's Senior Seminary in the Philippines accepted my application. I spent three years in the seminary from 1997-2001. While I was undergoing formation, my U.S. visa application was approved so I needed to apply for a regency program to work on all the requirements needed by the U.S. immigration. During this regency program, I had an opportunity to work with my Dean of Discipline and Vice-Rector of the seminary who invited me to help him in his ministry both in parish and in parochial school. I had a chance to work in school administration, too. I was appointed by the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, Archbishop of Manila as one of the members of the CIE (Center for Integral Evangelization), Archdiocesan realm. I finished the academic requirements and passed the comprehensive examinations for the degree in Master’s in Educational Leadership and Management.

Finally, on April 5, 2006, I migrated to the United States of America. I worked at a retail store for quite a time. I am a Clinical Lab Scientist (Medical Technology) by profession. I also passed the exam in Phlebotomy. In October 2008, I was an extern in the laboratory at the Veteran's Hospital in Vallejo City.

My father asked me before he died in 2008, “Where do you want to go?” My father’s words struck me like thunder and lightning.” I don’t know”, the only answer I gave him. I prayed heartily to God to enlighten me with my calling, to guide me in my decision and to lead me to where I must go. I can only feel that there was this calling that needs to be answered.

I joined the Discernment Weekend last January 16, 2009 at St. Patrick’s Seminary, Menlo Park. I was accepted in the Diocese of Sacramento on August 2009. It has reaffirmed my desire to continue the seed of my vocation. My home parish is in Fairfield, Ca. at the Holy Spirit Parish Church. I just came back from Mexico City. I was there for three months to learn and speak Spanish. I am now in my pastoral year here in Chico and I look forward to serving and getting to know everyone here at St. John’s.

