



**Jesus Fonseca**  
**ESL**  
**Pontifical College Josephinum**  
**St. Jude, Joliet**  
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I entered the seminary in 2009 while living in Mexico and in the first years of formation the idea of becoming a priest grew, but above all, more than a priestly desire, it was a desire for holiness. With time and the passing of years, that idea seemed to vanish with the intrigues of youth and about what life had to offer.

My academic life in the minor seminary was more about going out to play and making jokes among classmates than to study. We only studied in times of exams. That changed when we went to the major seminary and we received as an emblem of the priestly vocation the distinguished black cassock, which made us part of the major seminary and directed us to a greater responsibility. During my life in the seminary I had the opportunity to study languages such as Greek and Latin which later became my favorite subjects because I understood them very easily. Another of my great motivations and yet the product headaches, were the philosophy and the documents of the Vatican II, the encyclical letters of John Paul II and other philosophy books that fascinated me and awakened in me the intellectual desire to learn more.

But on the other hand, the vocational question had taken a turn. The burning desire to be a priest became a difficult path to follow because I neglected my prayer and gave more importance to the philosophical aspect. During the second year of philosophy I began to dialogue about my vocation options with my spiritual director and advisor. While there was no doubt that my life was passionate and structured, it was a faith that was lived only superficially. Inside me faith did not represent something fundamental. It was a crisis that deep down I knew that I did not know what I wanted from my life and therefore what God wanted from me. Sometimes I told God to give me visible signs that would guide me to the right path; and when they all pointed to the priesthood, I refused to accept them and asked for more signs. My advisor told me that these signs indicated I had the qualities necessary for the priesthood, but my life choices were not set on God. I wanted to have a career and professional prestige; I longed for what the world offered. Blinded by the vanity of seeking the recognition of a professional title, I chose to not listen to what the signs from God said in my life, but rather to listen to what my human desires looked for.

I finished my philosophy studies, interrupted my formation in the seminary and entered the university and I knew the environment of university students. I had a girlfriend, but nothing filled my life. I became more familiar with the world in which I lived and studied the experimental sciences; but I discovered that my intellectual concerns were not those where the vision of God or the idea of God was, but rather asked me to live without Him. I considered them as reifying and anti-theist.

In spite of what happens in the life of each person, I have discovered that the work of God is a mystery that embraces the restless heart of man. That is why I admire the perseverance of

God in his elect; because perhaps, we do not know what our mission or our destiny is. However, God knows. and for reasons that surpass us, God has chosen us. *God has come to me, He looked at me with tenderness and said: Follow me, do not be afraid!*