



**Luis Miguel Garcia**  
**Theology 1**  
**Mundelein Seminary**  
**St. Mary, Mokena**  
**Birthday: February 13**

I was born on February 13, 1994 in Metepec, Mexico, received the sacrament of baptism on March 9th of that same year. I am an only child; my parents are Luis Miguel Garcia and Maria Concepción. I lived in my mother's home town, Valle de Bravo, Mexico until I was 15 years old and then started my formation at the Diocesan Seminary of Toluca in August 2009.

Due to my life story, I can see how God has mercifully acted with me in different ways. One of those ways occurred when I was in my mother's womb. The pregnancy was diagnosed at high risk. Moved by faith, my parents made a pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lord of Miracles in San Juan Nuevo, Michoacán, Mexico, to pray to the Lord for my birth. By His love and mercy, I am alive today. I grew up among the security, caring love, and values of my Christian-Catholic family. They influenced my vocation, as did in a special way. my maternal grandparents, Fernando Diaz and Alicia Lopez. They became "other parents" to me and showed me the charity of the Lord. Whenever I was in the company of my aunts and uncles, cousins, friends and the Church, I found security and support.

I first heard the call of God from my catechist, Sister Antonia Resendis when I was a little altar server. She suggested to me that I should think about the priestly vocation. Later on, the examples of many priests, especially my confirmation sponsor, Fr. Jaime Caballero, drew me in that direction. Afraid of answering to the divine voice, I tried to ignore it for some time. Even so, "His word had been in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones".

After I confirmed the call during a retreat, I began the discernment and priestly formation at the seminary of Toluca. I spent seven wonderful years there. However, as I finished philosophy, I discovered that God wanted something more from me - to be a missionary. Understanding that the Church is universal, and that God puts certain persons in our lives to show us His way, I came to the U.S. last year from Mexico determined to follow the Lord's call to serve the Diocese of Joliet.

Since last year, I have been in priestly formation preparing to start theology classes. I have improved my English and am adapting more and more to this new culture. It has been amazing and there have been many great experiences that I would like to tell you: like being in the seminary, praying in another language, discovering brothers and best friends among people, seminarians, and priests.

This past Summer, I studied ESL at the University of Illinois/Chicago and lived and assisted at St. Mary Parish in Mokena where proof of God's love and mercy showed up one more time in my life.

I am so grateful for this opportunity. I ask you to pray for me, that one day, if the Lord desires it and through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, that I not only am called, but will be chosen to be a holy priest in the service of the Church in this diocese.

Thank you for being my family here!