



Abel Luviano

College 3

Seminario de Cristo Rey, Mexico

San Lucas Evangelista, Querutezo

Birthday: November 10

My name is Abel Luviano Santamaría and I am entering my third year of college in the Seminario de Cristo Rey in Mexico. I was born November 10, 1981 to Juan Luviano y Cirila Santamaría. I am the youngest of nine children; Ambrosia, Maria Encarnación, Maria de la Luz, Salvador, Leonila, Silvia, Ernesto and Jorge Armando. Since I was a child, I have always enjoyed sports, especially soccer and volleyball.

In my free time, I like to read, listen to music and go for long walks outside, where I can relax my mind a little and contemplate the marvels that God has created.

I always had the desire to know about God, to know why things were happening around me, but no matter how much I searched, I did not find the answers. Because of this incomplete search, when I finished high school, it was a little difficult for me to decide my college major, because I thought I should study something that would fill my concern to know about God. I decided to study Business Administration, computers and accounting. During my studies I held part-time jobs, including positions as a computer teacher, telephone executive, and elementary school teacher.

When I was about to finish my degree in Business Administration, I met some Missionary Servants of the Word, who preached the Word of God through Biblical courses. When I was invited to attend the courses, I felt excited. Without a doubt, I was discovering answers to some of my questions. I anxiously awaited every day for the course to begin. Little by little, without realizing it, God had entered my life, my mind and my heart. It was so powerful that I felt the need for other people to know the immense love and mercy that God has for us.

From that encounter with Jesus Christ, this beautiful adventure began. I entered the Missionary Servants of the Word (MSP) Community as a full-time lay missionary. I taught Bible courses, taught catechesis for First Communion and Confirmation, gave pre-sacramental talks, took Communion to the sick, visited the poor, and offered celebrations of the Word. All this was indescribable. I felt complete. I was grateful to God for this great blessing of being able to help others.

I was a lay missionary for five years. During that time, my spiritual director helped me to discern that God was calling me to enter the seminary. In 2016, I entered Cristo Rey Seminary, which is a seminary for older vocations. We must find a diocese by the time we begin studying theology. I came to know Fr. Burke Masters through Deacon Eduardo Flores, who was a member of the MSP and my superior at one time. I am happy now to be a seminarian for the Diocese of Joliet.

I completed an introductory year and then finished one year of Philosophy at Cristo Rey. Here in Mexico, we study philosophy for three years, so I have two more years to go before

beginning theology. I will finish philosophy in Mexico while studying English, and then I hope to come to the United States to study theology for the Diocese of Joliet. Day by day I thank God for this wonderful gift. I constantly ask for the maternal intercession of Blessed Mary. I ask the Holy Spirit to be my guide so that my life is a joyful testimony to Jesus Christ!

I am also grateful for the people who pray for vocations. Thanks to these prayers and the great mercy of God, I continue to persevere.