



Rev. Mr. Nestor Sanchez
Theology 4
Pontifical College Josephinum
John Paul II, Kankakee
Birthday: June 3

Born in Mexico, I served in the religious community called “Missionaries Servant of the Word” for ten years. Because this was a missionary community, I had the dream of becoming a missionary priest in another country where I would learn another language and another culture. After making the decision to leave this particular community, I considered joining a diocese in Mexico. However, then I met

Father Burke Masters who told me about the opportunity in the diocese of Joliet. I accepted this challenge, knowing that it was one step closer to fulfilling my dream. My family was very happy with this decision and they supported me, all of them: my parents and my two brothers.

I arrived in the United States in 2015 and started my studies at the Pontifical College Josephinum (PCJ) in Columbus, Ohio. I must admit that learning “regular” English—as well as “textbook” English—and becoming accustomed to American culture (not to mention participating in rigorous coursework) was, at times, overwhelming. I have always been determined to achieve my goal, which is why I told myself not to give up. Fortunately, I have been encouraged all along the way by my teachers and diocesan brothers.

I have found my Apostolic calling to be particularly helpful over the past year. I was assigned to The Ohio State University Medical Center as a Minister of Communion. By visiting the sick, I have witnessed the power of the faith within those who are experiencing pain and suffering. As a result, I have felt an impact on my own faith and vocation.

Looking forward, I will finish my studies at the seminary (PCJ) and be awarded the Master of Divinity degree in December, 2018. I will then return to Saint John Paul II at Kankakee—the parish to which I was assigned and worked in this past summer. Looking forward, I will be ordained a priest in 2019.

Looking back over the past three years, I realize how many people have helped me: Bishop Conlon who accepted me into the diocese; Father Burke who has guided me along the path to the priesthood; the families who have welcomed me into their homes; the faculty members who have given me the academic tools needed; and my own family who has loved and guided me. No matter where I am, I will continue to pray for all.