



Ramon Sida III

Theology 2

Mundelein Seminary

Parish: St. Dominic, Bolingbrook

Birthday: June 14

I was born on June 14, 1993 in Joliet, IL. My parents, Laura Sida and Ramon Sida Jr, are both Mexican. My siblings are Karen Sida, Brenda Sida and Ricardo Sida, all of whom were born in Joliet. I am the oldest. I have lived my whole life in Cuauhtémoc, Chihuahua, México. During my vacations, I have come to visit my father's family. His parents and four siblings live in the Joliet area.

My family has always been very active in the Church. I am a good Christian today because of my wonderful parents. When I was preparing for my Confirmation, I attended a retreat in which I truly came to know the Lord and His great love for me. I knew that the Lord would always be an important part of my life and I began thinking about the priesthood. I was afraid to express my interest in the priesthood, so I tried to ignore the call for some time.

I became very active in the Church. As a server, I came to know some priests well and learned about their lifestyle. I was afraid and had wrong ideas about priests, for instance I thought that they would spend the whole day praying and away from people. When I was 14 years old I became a catechist and began a choir. My pastor invited me to a retreat to think about the priesthood and it really motivated me to enter seminary after my Sophomore year of high school. This decision has marked my life and will continue to do so. At the age of 16, I entered the Seminario Conciliar in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, which is a high school seminary.

At the same time, I always had a curiosity about what it would be like to be a seminarian and priest in the United States. My experience in the high school seminary in Juarez was very positive and helped me to learn many things about myself.

Later on, in the summer of 2011, while visiting my family in Joliet, I met Fr. Burke Masters. He talked to me about the great need for bilingual priests in the diocese, people in need to hear the Gospel in their own language! He told me that the Hispanic community has been growing very rapidly.

For that reason, today I am trying to respond, day by day, with a firm "yes" to the call of love that I have heard from God.

My time in formation has been a true blessing in my life. God has put so many wonderful people and experiences in my life that have helped me grow in my vocation and in being more confident. For instance, during fall semester my senior year of college, I had the opportunity to study in Rome, the "Eternal City." It was a grace-filled experience that strengthen my faith as well as my desire to answer God's call. In addition, a group of seminarians and I were blessed to serve Mass for Pope Francis on Christmas Eve at St. Peters Basilica!

I spent this summer learning American Sign Language at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. It was such an amazing experience that helped me learn about the

deaf culture in America as well as their own language, and I am thrilled to use what I have learned with the deaf community in our diocese. Everyone has the right to be ministered in their own language! Thus, I am excited to keep sharing God's great love and mercy I have experienced myself with the deaf community.

This upcoming semester I will be entering my second year of Theology at Mundelein Seminary. Please keep me in your prayers and be assured of mine for you. Thanks for all your support. Without all of your hard work and prayers for vocations our diocese would not be blessed with so many holy vocations as we are. God bless you!