



LABOURÉ®

Will you join my Vocation Journey?

Community: Diocese of Laredo | Alma Mater: Belmont University; University of Texas San Antonio
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My name is Juan Mendoza. I am discerning a call to serve Christ and His Church as a priest with the Diocese of Laredo. This is my story.

In the Beginning

I grew up as one of two children in a Catholic family in Laredo, Texas. The Faith was always a part of my home, and some of my earliest memories involve me playing "Communion" with my sister, and watching my grandmother practice on guitar and piano as she prepared to play music at Mass. I developed a love of music, beauty, and the arts, which led me down a completely different path from the priesthood—though now I can see how God was working through all my experiences.

The Call

The idea of the priesthood first crossed my mind when I was seven years old. I watched our priest celebrate Mass and, while most kids might be distracted, I found myself captivated by each word and action. As I grew, my attention shifted towards music. I ultimately became a music professor at a Christian university, and I found joy in teaching my students and sharing my love of music.

Then God surprised me. While in adoration, I felt God place "priesthood" on my heart. At first, I resisted—the vocation did not seem practical or realistic, especially for someone my age or as far along as I was in my career. The more I prayed and presented God with excuses, one by one, each obstacle disappeared. Even with the doubts, the more I considered the priesthood, the more I felt at peace. Through prayer, conversations with my vocation director, and the encouragement of friends, I continued to discern this call.

*"I can see how
God was working
through all my
experiences."*

—Juan

An Invitation

As I follow God's calling to the priesthood, I seek others to accompany me on this journey. May we meet so that I can share more? Until then, please keep me and my classmates in prayer, and feel free to reach out to me at Juan.Mendoza@rescuevocations.org.