



Seminarian Joseph Min

I was born on July 8, 2004 and I am the oldest from a Korean background.

My first encounter with the Lord was when he miraculously healed both me and my mother the morning after my baptism at the age of four from serious illnesses. Not long after, my grandmother encouraged me to become a priest after a profound spiritual experience she had through a dream. She was always convinced that I was destined to become a priest one day. Since then, the thought of priesthood was naturally ingrained in my heart. Despite this early sign, however, I still went on to live a normal childhood.

During this time, I also slowly began to prepare for my First Communion in which I fell more in love with the Lord. As a result, I became deeply involved in my former parish, especially as an Altar Server. I considered it to be the most important part of my life. However, my life took a major turn when my family decided to move to the states because of my father's job. The transition was very difficult for me, as I was adjusting to the language barrier and the culture in the U.S. As a result, I began to turn to the Lord, asking for help, in which he answered my prayers by inviting me to a visit to Mundelein through a sister at my home parish. It was there that I learned how seminarians lived their daily lives. I saw how their willingness to be humble, generous, and patient naturally drew others to them.

I began to do the same at school and saw how it positively changed how others perceived me. It drew me deeper to becoming a priest for a brief time. I even made a promise to the Lord in prayer, that if he ever calls me, I will always answer "yes". But unfortunately, pride slowly crept into my heart. I started to distance myself from the Lord and rely on my own strength. This led me towards a dark path overwhelmed by scrupulosity.

Afterwards, the following summer break, I became very sick. In searching for answers, I was led to the Catholic Sam-seong San Shrine where my mom and I often visited since early childhood. It was there I felt an overwhelming sense of remorse and a deep desire for healing from the Lord, which led me to the sacrament of reconciliation, where I had a powerful experience of forgiveness and love.

Afterwards, while praying the rosary, I had a very profound encounter with the blessed mother. I felt a sense of peace and love, similar to the comfort I felt when my mother visited me at my grandmother's house during early childhood. The realization of the truth about God and Eternal Life overwhelmed me with joy. I felt rested by the Lord, leading me to seriously discern the call for priesthood.