

## **Jesus looked at me, smiled, and called me to be part of His priesthood.**

I felt a deep desire to become a priest when Pope St. John Paul II visited my diocese in 1990. I was seven years old, I did my first holy communion on May 3rd, and the Pope visited us on May 8th. All the environment was about the Pope's visit, and my heart was on fire, but I was very little. Then, I chose not to pay attention to this deep desire. I studied, worked in the government, and was engaged to be married. When I was 31 years old, in 2014, I joined the "San Juan de Los Lagos Seminary" in México because I felt God's clear and strong call.

Jesus looked at me, smiled, and called me to be part of His priesthood. I thought that up to that point in my life, I had done everything God asked of me, so I spent some weeks praying and asking God, "What else do you want of me?" He answered me through a stranger saying by inbox, "You already belong to God... dedicated totally to Him... but I must tell you today that you must be a priest... go to the seminary and I will be your sponsor... take these words as a beautiful gift that God gives you today." I studied for four years in San Juan de los Lagos, México, and again felt that God was calling me to come to the United States; with the support of my spiritual director, I prayed to God to open me the doors wherever He wants me to be, and He opened them and brought me to the Archdiocese of San Antonio in 2018.

During these nine years of discipleship and configuration, I have strongly experienced the presence of Christ in my life, namely, the dynamism of His infinity, measureless, inexhaustible, unconditional, unique, and gratuitous love for me and for each person. I want to always correspond with my life to His generous love for me.

-Rafael Becerra, Fourth Theology