

WELCOME

to St. Joseph

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Hello dear friends! I am Fernando A. Díaz Olazábal. I am a seminarian from the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee and a student at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology in Wisconsin. I was born in the north of Peru, but these last years I lived as a monk in a monastery in Spain.

I had the grace of being born in a Catholic family with great love and devotion to the Eucharist and the Virgin Mary in which my parents taught my siblings and me to pray the Holy Rosary, read the Bible and attend mass on Sundays. I think those experiences helped reinforce the vocation to which I feel called.

I experienced the call to the priesthood when I was young, when I met several priests at my school and saw how they lived, offering everything to God and serving others with charity. That example of religious way of life had a great impact on me and helped me discover that I also wanted to dedicate my life to the Lord. For this reason, I began my formation as a religious in a convent in 2012. I studied philosophy and theology in Peru and Spain, and finally in May 2023 I entered as a seminarian in the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee.

I like the contemplative spiritual life, but at the same time, I also like to meet new people, talk and share experiences of faith and friendship. I also enjoy visiting parishes and being able to help with whatever is necessary. My favorite saint is Saint Philip Neri, an Italian priest well-known as “the saint of joy”. From him I have been able to learn that the joy of being Catholic is a very valuable gift that Jesus gives us from his heart. So I like to live my vocation with great joy. Other activities that I enjoy are reading, music and sports, especially basketball.

Having been a monk for almost ten years, I am now in my final years of study and priestly formation. And it is a great blessing from God to have been assigned to this wonderful parish during summer to be able to continue learning together with you. I hope to meet you soon and be part of your activities and your ecclesial life.

I am at your service and always count on my prayers for you.

God bless you all.

