



## **Seminarian Abel Luviano Santamaria**

I was born November 10, 1981, to Cirila Santamaría and Juan Luviano. I am the youngest of nine children. Since I was a child, I have always enjoyed sports, especially soccer and volleyball. In my free time, I like to read, listen to music, and go for long walks outside, where I can relax my mind a little and contemplate the marvels that God has created. I always had the desire to learn more about God and to understand how he affects the world around me.

It was a little difficult for me to decide on my college major because I thought I should study something that would fill my heart and faith. During my studies, I held part-time jobs, including positions as a computer teacher, telephone executive, and elementary school teacher. When I was about to finish my degree in Business Administration, I met some Missionary Servants of the Word, who preached the Word of God through Biblical courses. When I was invited to attend the courses, I felt excited. Without a doubt, I discovered an answer to some of my questions. Little by little, without realizing it, God had entered into my life, my mind, and my heart. It was so powerful that I felt the need for other people to know the immense love and mercy that God has for us. I entered the Missionary Servants of the Word (MSP) Community as a full-time lay missionary. I was a lay missionary for five years. During that time, my spiritual director helped me to discern that God was calling me to enter the seminary.

In 2016, I entered Cristo Rey Seminary. During that time, my spiritual director helped me to discern that God was calling me to enter the seminary. I came to know Fr. Burke Masters (Director of Vocations). After the application process, I was accepted into the Diocese of Joliet. I finished the Philosophy stage, and I began to study the first year of Theology at the Conciliar Seminary in Mexico City.

In 2021, I came to the United States and studied English. I am currently at Mundelein Seminary in my second year of Theology. Thank you for your prayers and support through my discernment.