



## **Seminarian Phu (Joseph) Nguyen**

I was born on November 17, 1990 in Vietnam. I am the youngest of three siblings in a devout Catholic family. My parents encouraged us to go to church every day, taught us how to pray, and said the Rosary. When I was a boy, I was involved in my vibrant parish where my faith struck deep roots into God and the community. I often attended Mass and Eucharistic Adoration every evening with my other children in my neighborhood. My involvement in my parish was enhanced by my participation in serving Mass and joining youth choirs. I felt that the church was my second home and the place I spent my entire childhood.

During my childhood and adolescence, our pastor, Father Francis, inspired me greatly. He served our parish for 30 years and cared for about 20,000 Catholics in a large area. He worked so hard, but he never skipped celebrating the daily mass and going to Eucharistic Adoration every evening with us children. It was him asking me to consider becoming a priest.

At the very beginning of my university studies, I enrolled in a discernment group for priesthood and began to contemplate becoming a priest. By the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the instructions of spiritual priests, I decided to apply for the priesthood in my diocese in Vietnam. Following my graduation from university in 2012, I successfully passed the Seminary entrance exam and was assigned to study philosophy and theology at St. Joseph's Seminary in Hanoi, Vietnam. In May 2022, I graduated from the Seminary after completing 8 years of study. Then I was a volunteer who served as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion to the sick and a trainer for catechists in some parishes. During this time, I was studying English. In spring of that year, I was recommended by a priest to apply for priesthood in the Diocese of Joliet. After a year, I was blessed with the acceptance of Father Steven. Prior to Christmas in 2023, I arrived in the United States and was arranged to live at the Notre Dame Parish with Father Mark, a devout priest.

I look forward to receiving abundant graces from God this year and in the days to come. I ask for prayers so I am able to fulfill God's will throughout my life.