



Seminarian Peter Thuong Nguyen

I was born on June 10, 1991, in the countryside of central Vietnam. I have a big family - five sisters and two brothers. I am one of the youngest. My father and mother were farmers and they cropped the traditional rice and some different vegetables. I am happy to have grown up in a loving Catholic family. We attended mass every Sunday and some weekdays. When I was a boy, I became an altar server at my parish, which changed my life forever. I decided to live with a priest, some people at the rectory, and that experience helped me to cultivate my personality.

In 2013, I moved to Ho Chi Minh city to study at the university. My major was Social Work. I choose this major because I like to work and interact with different people from different places around my country who also have different ways of living. When I work and interact with people, it teaches me to become a better person. When I graduated from the university in 2016, I began to volunteer at the Catholic organization *Caritas Vietnam*, which helps poor people around Vietnam.

By the grace of God and the help from many people, I was accepted by the Joliet Diocese and arrived in the United States in August of 2019. In the same month, I studied English for a year at the Pontifical College Josephinum (P.C.J.) in Ohio, and finished my classes on line while living at Holy Family Parish in Shorewood. In Fall of 2020, I began classes at St. Francis University in Joliet while living at St. Anthony Parish. It was a blessing to live at such a wonderful parish and community.

I am currently at Pontifical College Josephinum in St. Paul, Minnesota. I am so thankful to be part of the Joliet Diocese, and am very willing to do what it takes to know God's will for my life and serve this wonderful community.