

Vicente Fernandez
First Theology - Mundelein Seminary
Parish: St. Mary, West Chicago
Birthday: August 10



I was born on the feast of St. Lawrence (August 10th for those who don't know) in the year that the movie *Back to the Future* came out (that's 1985). My home parish is St. Mary's in West Chicago. I graduated from Northern Illinois University in May of 2007 with a BA in history and for the past two years I've been in the pre-theology program at Conception Seminary College in Conception, Missouri. I really enjoyed my time at Conception and I am looking forward to my time at Mundelein.

For most of my life I have always been involved with my home parish helping out with various ministries. I have been an altar server, catechist, lector, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion and helped out in the parish office whenever I could. For the most part, since my parents were involved at the parish, it helped me to grow in my faith and in my relationship with God. That relationship grew as I went on to college and as I became involved with the Newman Center at NIU. It only seemed natural for me to go to the seminary after I graduated from college. As I have mentioned before, I have really enjoyed my time at Conception. I have really experienced growth in my two years there I know that my time at Mundelein will help me to continue to grow.

One thing that Fr. Samuel, the rector at Conception, told us one time was that we need to learn to be more appreciative to those who support us in our vocation. I find this to be very true. I am still overwhelmed by the amount of support that people have given me and the other seminarians. I really appreciate the support that I've been given by the Serra Club of DuPage and other organizations such as the Knights of Columbus. I cannot begin to thank all those who have supported me.

This past summer I have been doing an internship at St. Andrew's Parish in Romeoville helping out with different aspects of parish life such as painting, visiting parishioners in hospitals, painting, helping out with the liturgies, more painting, trying to learn Polish and have I mentioned painting? It has been overall a very positive experience. Fr. Gregor Gorsic, the pastor at St. Andrew's, along with Fr. Greg Podwysocki and Fr. John Discroll have been excellent examples of what it means to be a priest.

I again thank all those who have supported me during my time in the seminary and I continually pray for those who have supported me as I know they continue to pray for me.