



Rev. Mr. Franklin Duran

Fourth Theology – Mundelein Seminary

Parish: Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe, Bolivia

Birthday: March 26, 1980

My name is Franklin Duran Castrillo and I have two sisters (Maria Elena and Maria Isabel) and one brother (Eric). My parents' names are Oscar and Marcela Agustina. My family is very Catholic and thanks to their support I am on this path toward the priesthood. They are a very important part of my vocation.

I was in the seminary for my home diocese of Tarija, Bolivia for a few years. And then I was invited to come to the Diocese of Joliet in August of 2006. I studied English for one year at Lewis University and lived at the Fiat House of Discernment in Joliet.

In September of 2007 I entered Conception Seminary College to continue my English studies. After one year I passed the TOEFL test (English proficiency exam) and then began my theological studies at Mundelein Seminary. This summer I attended to the IPF (Institute for Priestly Formation) program in Omaha.

Being in the seminary has been the most extraordinary experience of my life because it has helped me become the person I was meant to be. I think that each day that passes, the joy increases as I come in contact with other people. I am who I am thanks to them and I want to share my life with them.

The priesthood is a ministry that one lives through the people and for the people. For that reason, when it was possible to come to the United States to enter the seminary, I didn't hesitate for one moment and I came because the people need someone to help them grow closer to God. I want to be that instrument of God. I know that it is far from my home, but the love and warmth of the people, and more importantly their faith, give me much strength and energy to keep moving forward.

I have enjoyed my Pastoral Year at St. Dominic and am looking forward to completing my theology at Mundelein this next academic year.

Yesterday was a very special and important day for me. I was ordained a Transitional Deacon.