



Seminarian John Piang

I am from Burma, South East Asia. I was born on July 20, 2003. I have two older siblings and one younger sister. Their names are Teresa, Michael, and Christina. My parent's names are Augustine and Margaret. We came to India as refugees in 2008, moved to San Diego, California in 2011, and moved to Illinois in 2017.

As a young kid, I was full of energy always wanting to play. I always enjoyed playing soccer with my friends. My hobbies are playing the guitar, drawing, skateboarding, and videography. I love to go outdoors to explore nature or just some interesting places. I would go biking on the trails with my dad and siblings.

When I was living in India is when I decided I wanted to be a priest. I would love to pretend celebrating Mass. When I came to the United States, the idea of the priesthood was on my mind often. There was a deep feeling inside me that I would be a priest one day. Through the first three years of high school many professions went through my head. It wasn't until the beginning of my senior year, that I began to pray the rosary daily on the bus. After some months I felt great happiness and closeness to God.

At the end of senior year my desire for priesthood got stronger each day even though I was planning to attend College of DuPage to study computer science. Whenever I would think of my career choice, priesthood would always come to mind. I felt unhappy about my career choice. I realized God was wanting me to be a priest, but I wanted to go my own. That's why each day the priesthood desire got stronger. The desire to become a priest seemed to come deep from my heart instead of my mind.

My family was giving talks about what we were thankful for. As my sister was talking, the Holy Spirit worked inside me to tell my parents of my desire to be a priest. Ever since telling them, my desire to be a priest increased greatly. I started researching about the priesthood and the steps to becoming a priest. The desire to grow in holiness was high and I started to pray the rosary every morning and night. At night, after praying the rosary I would have a conversation with Jesus and pray in silence. When I was in the silence, thoughts would always come "You will be my priest." I felt so much peace and love.

It's all a journey and amazing how God works through every moment in our life for us to get closer to Him. God wants us to be with Him and when we choose Him, he will never leave us. I am very happy to be in my third year (Discipleship 1) at St. John Vianney College/University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota.