

It all began when I was 19 years old university student looking for meaning in life. I was then an Electrical Engineering student on my 5th year, my last year, when I was asking – what then after all this degree; a well paying career, house, car, family, children, then what? I was seeking for a deeper meaning in life. I started to seek for meaning in my faith. Started reading the Bible, going to mass regularly on Sundays, and heightened my devotion to Our Lady... a visit everyday after class to church before her image, praying for guidance.

The answer came when I was preparing for the Board Examination for Electrical Engineers. A religious sister of the Benedictines, one of my Aunt's closest friends in the convent while I was visiting, asked me while browsing through some pamphlets of male religious congregations at their visitor's parlor, if I wanted to be a priest. I said, it was my intention before after high school. But not anymore because its too late, now that I am about to start my professional career as an electrical engineer. But she said, its not too late to enter the priesthood. She pointed out to me to try the Society of the Divine Word, a religious missionary congregation, who accepts professionals. It was not difficult to know the congregation because the congregation administered the school where I took and finished my elementary education. The priest, who was President of the School and at the same time the vocation director directed me to the seminary in another province and gave me a schedule for their entrance examination. For curiosity, I went there the day after taking the board examination for electrical engineers. After which, I was interviewed, and directed to apply for a teaching job at the congregation's school in another province where they have a College of Engineering. I got the job and stayed with the congregation while waiting for the results of my entrance exam to the seminary and board exam for electrical engineers. Six months later, I got both results – I was accepted to the seminary, and I passed the board examination too with satisfactory result. Now the decision. Which way to choose? I chose to enter the seminary. And 7 years later. I was ordained to the priesthood as a religious missionary of the Society of the Divine Word.

I also practiced my electrical engineering career while in the seminary. I was given electrical engineering projects for the seminary institution by the priest director of the seminary.

After ordination, I was missioned to our junior Seminary in Davao City, Philippines, as treasurer. As treasurer, I prepared budgets for the seminary operation to be submitted and approved by our Generalate in Rome. This budget was what we expend for the whole year for the seminary operation. Two years as a treasurer, I was assigned as finance officer of the flailing College administered by the Congregation in Bohol Province in the Central Visayas region of the Philippines. This College went to become a university while working as finance officer. I worked for 13 years for the university. After which, the Provincial Superior of the congregation assigned me to the University of San Carlos, the most prestigious University administered by the congregation which was well known for its excellent academic programs in the country. I worked for 8 months working to improve their financial system through the I.T. programs. The leadership of the University changed by the 8 months working there. I got assigned to worked in a parish somewhere among the Muslim region which the congregation will replace the Jesuits in that parish. But I opted to take a leave of absence from the congregation instead, feeling tired and exhausted from all the administrative work for the congregations' institutions. I was accepted by Archbishop Daniel Bohan to the Archdiocese of Regina, through my cousin's association with Fr Danilo Rafael, who was then the personnel director of the Archdiocese.

November 30, 2008 – I arrived in Regina. December, of 2008, I was associate Priest at Holy Rosary Cathedral under the rectorship of Fr Brian Meredith, now the Vicar General of the Archdiocese.

Eight months as Associate Priest of Holy Rosary Cathedral, I was appointed Administrator/Pastor of Church of Our Lady in Moose Jaw, Sk. in June 7, 2009. I stayed at Church of Our Lady for five fruitful years until Archbishop Bohan assigned me Pastor of Holy Family Parish, on August, 2014 in Regina replacing Fr Brad Fahlman who was on his study leave to the U.S.

June of 2016 I was recalled to go back to the Congregation. My time of leave a maximum of 9 years has lapsed and I need to respond to stay out for good or go back. It was a difficult decision to make. It was just my second year of six-year term for Holy Family. After a pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes, and Sagrada Familia in Barcelona Spain, the Blessed Mother inspired me to go back to the congregation. I

worked to be transferred to the USC province of the Congregation based in Chicago, USA which has a district in Ontario and Quebec provinces in Canada.

I was accepted to be transferred to the USC province by March of 2017. I bade goodbye to Archbishop Don who was already the Archbishop of Regina. However, by May of the same year, the congregation's Generalate in Rome did not approve my transfer to the USC province of the congregation from the Philippine Southern Province, which I was originally assigned before taking my leave of absence. With that, I didn't concur to the decision of Rome, rather, I opted to stay as Priest of the Archdiocese of Regina. Archbishop Don re-accepted me and now permanently a member of the clergy of the Archdiocese of Regina as approved by the Papal Office in Rome.

After Holy Family, Archbishop Don assigned me to replace Fr Lorne Crozon at St. Anne's Parish in Regina while Fr Lorne was on medical leave. Four months later, the Bishop asked me to go to Our Lady of the Assumption-Co-Cathedral Parish in Gravelbourg, SK while waiting for the bi-lingual Priest hired from Africa. Failing to have a bi-lingual priest after a year of waiting, Bp. Don asked me to stay for another two years. But pandemic came I was extended for another 2 years. 9 months after it was announced that I am Pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Regina I finally arrived at Holy Cross Parish in Regina on April 17, 2023. Looking forward for a fruitful six year journey at Holy Cross Faith Community... Thus far my story.

Rev. Fr. Carlos Jimenez

Skills :

Electrical Engineering. Mapúa Institute of Technology, Manila Phils.

Ecclesiastical Theology. Divine Word Seminary, Tagaytay City, Phils.

Master in Management. Asian Institute of Management, graduated in 2000.

Makati, Phils.

Master in Martial Arts of Gan Soo Do [4th Dan], WTTaekwondo [4th Dan], Judo [3rd Dan]. Certified Instructor. World Taekwondo, Kukkiwon, Korea. Certified Instructor, The Grandeza Way of Martial Arts, Bacolod City, Philippines
Instructor of Gan Soo Do and Taekwondo for over 25 years.