



Catholic Diocese of Memphis

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*“It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness:
He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you.”
-Pope St. John Paul the Great*

Jose Rolando Perez

Home Parish is Catholic Church of the Incarnation

Rolando will be ordained by Bishop David P. Talley into the Diaconate within the Catholic Diocese of Memphis at The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on June 3. He will be assigned as a Deacon with Saint Mary Catholic Church in Jackson, Tenn.

Rolando Perez was born in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. The second youngest child of Jose Perez and Maria G. Mata’s eight children, Rolando, was baptized in the Catholic Church in February 1990.

In the early 2000s, Rolando moved to Memphis where most of his extended family have resided for many years. While Rolando completed elementary school in the Country of Mexico, the rest of his education continued in the US; in 2004, he entered his freshman year at Bartlett High School.

Rolando was a “cradle Catholic,” yet, in his late teens, his faith was challenged, and he stopped practicing his Catholic faith. He worked as a mechanic and warehouse sales assistant until 2009.

In the aftermath of the 2008 Recession, away from the sacraments, Rolando grew weary of searching for meaning, purpose, and authentic love—it was God he was searching for all along, he later realized.

Providentially, amid uncertainty, Rolando heard God’s call back to the sacramental life of the Church. And in 2009, in his early 20s, Rolando registered as a parishioner of Saint Michael Catholic Church, where years later, he did youth ministry until entering seminary in 2016. It was while ministering to young people that Rolando began discerning a deeper call to serve God.

In 2020, Rolando completed his Bachelor’s in Philosophy at the University of Dallas and Holy Trinity Seminary. He then continued to complete his Theology studies at Saint Meinrad Seminary in Indiana, while he also shares a work-study position in the Communications Department as a photographer. Rolando will graduate from Saint Meinrad next summer, in 2024, with a Master of Divinity degree.

ROLANDO nació en San Luis Potosí, México. El penúltimo de 8 hijos, fue bautizado al año de nacer, en 1990. En el año 2000 llega a Memphis. En su adolescencia su fe se ve retada y deja de practicarla por varios años. Pero en 2008, después de la Recesión, empieza una búsqueda de significado, de propósito y de amor auténtico. Después se daría cuenta de que a quien buscaba era a Dios. Vuelve a la Iglesia y haciendo ministerio con los jóvenes le llega el llamado vocacional. Inicia su formación en 2016. El próximo 3 de Junio se Ordenara al Diaconado Transicional, y será asignado a hacer su pastoral en la Iglesia de Santa María, en Jackson, Tennessee.