

Fr. Raymond Marquez: guiding seminarians as intentional disciples of Jesus Christ



Fr. Raymond Marquez has always had a call to serve Catholic youth.

Growing up in the San Gabriel Valley, his home parish was Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Montebello.

He attended the parish

school from first through eighth grade. After completing his high school education at Don Bosco Technical Institute in Rosemead, he went to Whittier College, where he majored in Psychology and minored in Child Development.

Following his graduation from college, Fr. Raymond worked as a social work case manager from 2001-2004, serving severely emotionally disturbed children and their families. He began his priestly formation at St. John's Seminary in the fall of 2004, studying philosophy in the pre-theology program. He was first introduced to the SND spirit when he encountered two SNDs during his seminary years. Sr. Regina Robbins and Sr. Leanne Hubbard were instrumental in his education and formation.

Recalling his first impressions of the sisters, he says, "I remember Sr. Regina working with us individually so that we could find out how God was speaking to us through our field education experiences, even if it was a challenging message or lesson for us. I first met Sr. Leanne when I entered high school ministry at La Reina High School, back in 2007. I chose that ministry because it was one where I had the least comfort and least experience. As the program coordinator, Sr. Leanne put my mind at ease and gave me great guidance throughout the whole semester. She

helped me to enjoy doing high school ministry and to be open to the possibility of teaching."

After being ordained in June 2010, Fr. Raymond served as an Associate Pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Santa Clarita. While he was there, he was involved with ministering to the elementary school students, the Confirmation students, and the youth choir. His second assignment took him to St. Anthony High School in Long Beach, where he served as the high school chaplain and a religion teacher.

Following St. Anthony's, he was reassigned to work with the college students at Queen of Angels Center for Priestly Formation. While there, he still remained connected with the SND community. Sr. Rebekah Kennedy provided a workshop on the process of theological reflection. Most recently, he has been assigned to serve as the Director of Students at St. John's Seminary, beginning this fall.

Upon returning to his alma mater he says, "using my recent experience with high school ministry, it was a somewhat easy transition to work with college seminarians because it felt like a natural progression from high school to college. I was already familiar with working with this generation. Being able to effectively communicate with them [the seminarians] was not as challenging as before. Being involved with priestly formation still gives me the opportunity to teach, but it gives me more of a chance to accompany my college seminarians in their discernment and growth as intentional disciples of Jesus Christ."

Fr. Raymond looks forward to continued ventures with the SND community as he begins this new endeavor with the students at St. John's Seminary.