

# Emmanuel Gutierrez

**Year of Study:** Pastoral Year

**Home Parish:** St. Charles, San Carlos

**1. When did you first think about becoming a priest?**

I first thought about becoming a priest around the age of 16, shortly after receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**2. Please tell a bit of your background before entering the seminary: did you enter from high school, working, college, etc.?**

Prior to entering seminary, I worked for nearly 11 years in the construction industry, doing both commercial and residential construction. I also served as a catechist in my home parish.

**3. What are some of your hobbies or things you enjoy doing during your free time?**

I enjoy using my free time to either read/study philosophy or lounge around and rest from my weekly study routine. I enjoy spending time with family and friends and engaging in meaningful conversations. My hobbies include working on vehicles, lifting weights, and playing the classical guitar.

**4. Who is your favorite saint?**

Saint Thomas Aquinas.

**5. What has been your favorite spiritual reading book?**

Perhaps my favorite spiritual reading book, outside of the Holy Scriptures, would have to be either Thomas a Kempis' *The Imitation of Christ*, or St. Augustine of Hippo's *Confessions*.

**6. What part of priestly life do you feel most drawn toward?**

The part of the priestly life that I feel most drawn to would have to be the ability to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass or having the faculty of absolving people from their sins through the Sacrament of Penance.

**7. What would you say to a man considering applying for the seminary?**

It is only right and just that each and every unmarried Catholic man seriously consider the possibility that God may be calling him to the priesthood. If you are already thinking of applying, then the best thing you can do is apply. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain by following the will of the Lord. However, it is of utmost importance that your prayer life be solid and consistent. Without a solid and consistent prayer life, you will not have the clarity of mind necessary to effectively discern God's will for your life. Discernment is a difficult process, but when done right and faithfully, it is worth more than all the riches in the world. Our purpose in life consists in laboring to work out our salvation and to help those whom God entrusts to us to do the same. If we are not seeking to achieve this during our earthly lives, what then will we say to Our Lord on that day when He asks for an account of our lives?