

Meet Father Guillermo “Mémo” Hernandez

Hello, I am Fr. Guillermo Hernandez, but since I was a little boy, my family called me “Mémo” as it is the usual way that Guillemos are called in Mexico. I was born in Culiacan, Sinaloa, Mexico but I grew up in Guadalajara, so I consider myself a “Tapatio” (a person born in Guadalajara). I am the oldest of 4 brothers. My parents and brothers, with their respective families, live in Guadalajara.

About my vocation story I can say that God had to fight a lot in order to conquer my heart and let me understand that He was calling me. I heard him calling me to be for Him since I was a teenager but I was afraid because I thought at that time that becoming a religious brother or a priest would mean to lose my freedom and the right to be happy and enjoy life. Therefore, I went on in my life trying to live as any other young man would do. However, I was always involved in the evangelization of my Parish participating in different activities and groups. This helped me to keep that little flame of God’s calling alive even though I did not know it.

I got my major’s degree in business management and I worked in different banks for several years. My life seemed to be quite “normal” but inside of me there was always an internal cry that used to tell me: “All these achievements and all the joys that the world gives you are not enough for you.” And it was true! I experienced something inside of me that brought me always to search for God although sometimes I tried hard to get away from Him. It was only when I was about to get married that I had to face that constant feeling or voice inside of me. My fiancée and I attended a silent retreat in order to understand in a clearer way God’s will for us, and it was in that retreat that I realized that God was calling me, that He wanted me to leave behind everything and everybody in order to be fully for Him and be dedicated to His mission. So I did it and I joined a missionary religious congregation called Verbum Dei Community. I studied the philosophical course in Mexico, and then I was sent to the Philippines where I got a bachelor’s degree in Theology while doing some mission there. After that, I was sent to Italy to help in the missionary work that the congregation does there. I stayed there for about three years and then I left that religious community. In 2010 I was accepted into the seminary program of the Diocese of Sacramento and I was sent to St. Patrick’s Seminary in Menlo Park where I got a M.A. Then I was sent to St. Theresa Parish in South Lake Tahoe to do my pastoral year. It was there that I received the grace of the diaconal ordination last February. I stayed at that Parish in order to serve as a deacon until June 1st, the day in which I was ordained as a priest together with other 7 deacons by the hands of Bishop Jaime Soto.

I feel overwhelmed by and unworthy of the so many graces that I have received from the Lord during my life. This makes me have no other desire but serving Him by helping His children to come to know Him and love Him more than I do.

Now, I am so honored and glad to be here, serving God’s people in this Parish. I pray that the Lord may make of me a good shepherd for you all together with my brother priests. Therefore, I kindly invite you to let me know how I can serve you better.

Blessings.

In Christ,

Fr. Mémo Hernandez