

“I COULD NOT SHAKE A FEELING OF UNREST, A CRY,  
A DEEP DESIRE TO LOVE AS A PRIEST LOVES.”



“Haven’t you heard that cry deep down within you sometimes?” As I look back, these words of St. Josemaría Escrivá describe the challenging and subtle voice of Christ calling me to be His priest. For ten years, I pursued my own interests: military service, volunteer work, a bachelor’s degree, the professional life, and more. I wanted to marry and have children. Still, I could not shake a feeling of unrest, a cry, a deep desire to love as a priest loves.

As a young sailor stationed at the submarine base in Pearl Harbor, I attended a Cursillo retreat where I had a profound experience of God’s love. In the months following that weekend, I took on the task of coordinating our parish confirmation program. My initial concern over lack of teaching experience was overcome by my desire for the students to know the love of Christ. Although teaching the class was very challenging, many of the students did experience a profound encounter with Christ, and all of them

enjoyed the time we spent with one another. The students’ desire to remain together and learn more about Christ led us to start a youth group. In the course of these activities, I first heard God’s subtle voice calling me to the priesthood.

The cry within my heart to serve the Lord as a priest remained for years despite my efforts to pursue other interests. Experiences like the ones above helped me to see that the gifts and grace that God had given me were given for the benefit of others, and that my heart’s desire was to love as Christ loves through His priests. Following that voice was the best thing I ever did.

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