
Reflections from May 15 Serra Meeting: Fr. Joaquin's Vocation Story

Fr. Joaquin Gracias, Parochial Vicar, St. Pius Catholic Church

Fr. Joaquin Savio Neto Gracias entered seminary at age 12 and made his first temporary promises in the Society of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier in 1991 at age 18. He solidified his commitment with perpetual promises at age 25 and became a deacon at age 28. He entered the Order of Priesthood a year later as a missionary priest, serving the marginalized in Bhopal, India, and ministering to bonded laborers, the destitute, lepers, and orphaned children.

In 2006 he was assigned to the mission of Kolkata, extending his service from the northeast of India to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. He immersed himself in local languages and cultures and tirelessly spread the message of Christ to those yet to encounter Him, enriching his priestly life, ministry, and global vision of the Church.

After 10 years of service in the missions, he pursued further studies, undertaking a Licentiate in Canon Law at the Pontificia Universitas Urbaniana in Rome. Following his academic pursuits, he assumed roles as a professor and dean of theology at Pilar Theological College in India. Additionally, he served as a tribunal judge for the Archdiocese of Goa, India. Having earned his Doctorate in Canon Law in Rome in October 2020, he came to the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon to exercise his priestly ministry. Initially, he was appointed to St. Peter and St. Mark Catholic Church in Eugene with Fr. Michael Jeeva. Then he was reassigned as Parochial Vicar at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Eugene, Oregon. Presently, he is Parochial Vicar at St. Pius X Parish.

Fun fact: the priests in India wear white cassocks rather than black. The reason for this is that it's simply too hot to wear black.

