

# A Lifetime of Formation

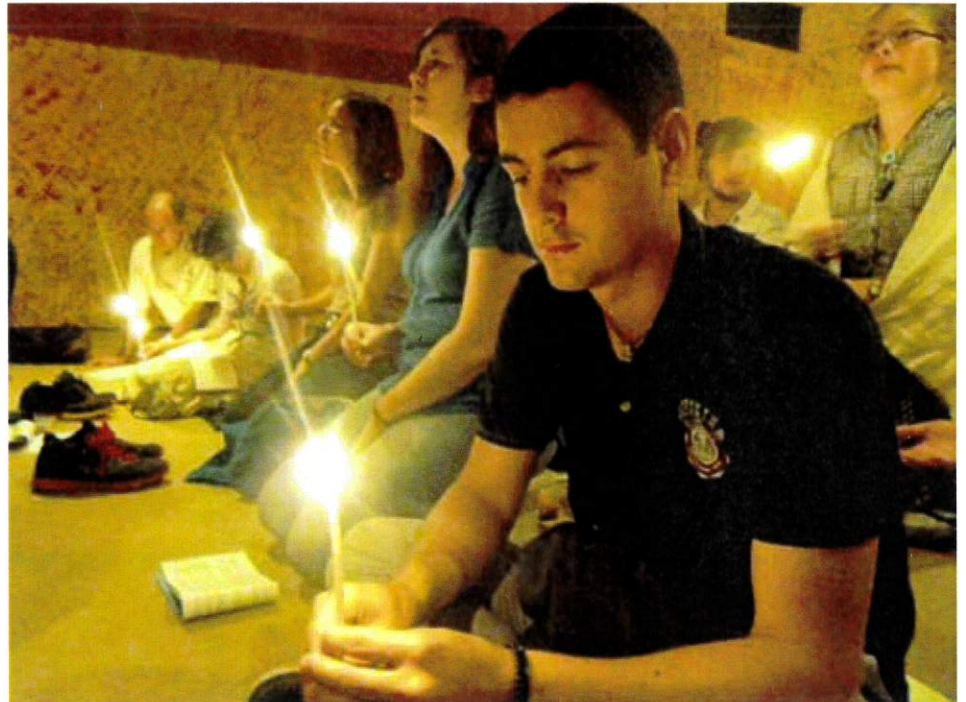


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My name is Cristian Miguel Cossio Sepulveda and I am from Colombia. I have been in the United States since 2014 studying English and taking theology classes. I am fascinated by priestly life and I love missionary work. I am here to respond to what I believe is God's call to be His servant in this country.

Growing up in Colombia, my parents were always concerned with my brother and I's formation, so I am sure that my family has played an important role in my priestly vocation. With them, I learned how to pray, how to love, and how to forgive others. They taught me the importance of being a good man and a good Christian.

During my youth, the work of the priests always caught my attention and I was very curious to learn more about their lives. Now I am here at the seminary, preparing myself as a seminarian to be a good priest. I recognize that priestly formation is vital for me as a seminarian because it allows me to exemplify Christ. I am conscious of the need to be receptive and responsible during this process of for-



Cristian spent 3 months with the Taizé community in France in the summer of 2012.

mation and I hope to respond honestly and fully to the commitments demanded of me during the formation process.

One of my favorite Bible passages is Luke 1:26-38. It tells the story of the angel's visit to Mary, when she learned that she would become a mother and responded: "Yes." In every experience, I also try to say "yes" to God as he teaches and guides me in my pastoral work. Being in formation is wonderful; at the same time, I feel from the bottom of my heart that God does not promise me that it will always be like the first day. However, he promises that he will always be with me to strengthen me. So, I continue to follow God's call.

I want to thank God for calling me, for the blessings He gives me daily, and for blessing of the people who accompany and guide me in my formation to the priesthood. If you are thinking about the priesthood or consecrated life, the thought alone might be an indication of God's will for your life. Being who you are is more important than being who others expect you to be. If God calls you, it is because He knows who you truly are. Do not try to impress people, be sincere with yourself, and be the best you can be. Open your heart and be happy because happiness is a manifestation of love. Then, allow God to work in your life as he has in mine.



Cristian with his brothers celebrating Diego's graduation from the university: (L-R) Daniel, Diego, Cristian, and Jose.