



FR. JESUS CARLO LEONARDO MERINO JOINS THE PRESENTATION FAMILY!

Age: 37 Place of Birth: *Taytay, Philippines* Education: *B.A. in Humanities from University of Asia and the Pacific, Philippines; B.A. in Theology from University of Navarre, Pamplona, Spain; B.A. in Pastoral Ministry from Seton Hall University*

Following a music career in the Philippines, Fr. JC joined the seminary in Spain before attending Immaculate

Conception Seminary in South Orange. The death of his mother, who always supported his decision to join the priesthood, played a strong role. “My deep conversations with her through FaceTime, the memory of her voice, were spiritual consolations I received in prayer when she passed away. My mother suffered a lot of pain before she passed away; through her suffering, I came to experience a world that is vulnerable to suffering, and what suffering and death meant in the light of our faith.

Through the suffering and death of my mother, my vocation to the priesthood assumed a dimension of life that meant nothing to me before. This painful event in my life shaped my conviction to become a priest and gave it a deeper meaning.”

Fr. JC is the first newly ordained priest to be assigned to Presentation in over three decades. Brand new to full-time pastoral ministry, he’s excited to begin his ministry here at Presentation. He met the staff last week and received a unanimous “thumbs-up.” We know that when you meet him at the end of June, you’ll be as thrilled as we are to have him on board. Welcome Fr. JC!