

SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

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MEET THE PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE

Father Mauricio Hurtado

Native of El Calvario, Michoacán, Mexico

Priest of the Diocese of Sacramento

Administrator of Saint Theresa Parish, South Lake Tahoe



Mauricio Hurtado was born in the small agricultural town of El Calvario in Michoacán, Mexico. He is the first of five children born to his parents, Esteban Hurtado and Antonia Ponce. His siblings are Gabriel, Fany, Carlos Eduardo and Sara. Being the eldest in the family, Mauricio learned early to be responsible for the well-being of others, especially his brothers and sisters.

He was raised by devout Catholic parents who taught him about faith by their example. While Mass was celebrated in the small village only once a month, faith was lived daily in the Hurtado family. “My parents taught me to pray every day; I remember those prayers and pray them today,” says Mauricio. “I learned from my mom and dad who set a good example.”



Photo courtesy of Fr Mauricio Hurtado

Mauricio with his parents, Esteban and Antonia Hurtado

THE HURTADOS ARE FARMERS

When Mauricio was 10 years old, his family moved to a village named Araparicuario, Michoacán. There his father became the foreman on a cattle ranch (old hacienda) and farm. That is where he grew up. His family earned a living growing and harvesting sugar cane, corn and tomatoes and raised cattle. As the eldest, young Mauricio found himself leaving school at the age of 12 to help out in the fields.



Photo courtesy of Fr Mauricio Hurtado

Saint Anthony of Padua Church at Arapicuario
The house where the Hurtado family lived is on the left next to the church



Photo courtesy of Fr Mauricio Hurtado

Aqueduct at the Hacienda de Arapicuario, Michoacán, Mexico

MAURICIO'S PATH TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Mauricio's path to the priesthood began in earnest in 1996 when he attended a three-day youth retreat sponsored by a charismatic group in a neighboring diocese. He heard a presenter speak

about the parable of the Prodigal Son who had lost his way and became separated from God. “I was touched because I had experienced that in my life and was longing to find meaning in my life. At that moment, I found it was God who gave meaning to my life and the way to serve God was by serving other people.”

The next milestone occurred when three seminarians visited Mauricio’s home town. “I saw they were happy with what they were doing, saw them sharing with people who would come to them and tell them the story of their lives,” Mauricio said. Then one of the seminarians paid a visit to his parents’ home and Mauricio overheard the seminarian ask his mother if her eldest son had expressed interest in entering the seminary. “My mom told him she didn’t know the answer to his question and never mentioned the conversation to me, but I kept it in the back of my mind,” he said.

BEGINS THE SEMINARY IN MORELIA

In 1996, Mauricio decided to pursue the priesthood and began his minor seminary studies at El Seminario de Santa María de Guadalupe in Morelia, Mexico. After completing the minor seminary, he took three years of philosophy and went through one year of spirituality and discernment and then a semester of theology in the seminary in Morelia.

ENROLLS IN SAINT PATRICK SEMINARY



Photo by John E Boll

Saint Patrick Seminary and University, Menlo Park

In 2003, Mauricio attended the ordination of Father Enrique Alvarez, now pastor of Holy Family Parish in Citrus Heights, who was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Sacramento in Michoacán.

Also attending that ordination was Father Humberto Gomez, then vocation director for the Diocese of Sacramento. After talking with Mauricio, Father Humberto invited him to come to Sacramento and begin his theological studies for service in the Diocese of Sacramento. Mauricio decided to change to the Diocese of Sacramento and enrolled in Saint Patrick Seminary and University in Menlo Park where he did his studies in theology.

PASTORAL YEAR IN SACRAMENTO



Photo by John E Boll 2014

Saint Paul Church, Sacramento

After completing his second year of theological studies, Mauricio began his pastoral year at Saint Paul Parish in Sacramento in the fall of 2007 to May 2008. During his pastoral year, he visited the elderly, started a youth group for Spanish-speaking youth, and preaching when assigned to be the homilist at Mass. He said he liked to listen to people, share with them and be available to them when they need his help. Mauricio returned to Saint Patrick Seminary for his final two years of studies. He was ordained a transitional deacon in May 2009.

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

On May 31, 2010, Mauricio was one of three transitional deacons who were ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Jaime Soto in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Sacramento. Mauricio's parents were not able to secure US visas to come from Mexico to attend his ordination. The Cathedral was filled with parishioners from the parishes where the newly ordained priests had served during their pastoral year. It was a joyful day for Fathers Michael Baricuatro, Michael Estaris and Mauricio Hurtado who were ordained priests.



Photo by Cathy Joyce, *Catholic Herald*

2010 Class of Ordinandi – Michael Baricuatro, Michael Estaris and Mauricio Hurtado

After these three priests were ordained to the order of priesthood and clothed in chasubles, Bishop Soto presented to them the bread and wine used for the celebration of the Eucharist, reminding them that it was now their ministry to feed the people of God through the Gospel of



Photo by Cathy Joyce, *Catholic Herald*

Deacon Mauricio promises respect and obedience to Bishop Soto and his successors

Christ and the gift of the Eucharistic Body and Blood of Christ the Lord. Bishop Soto then extended a sign of peace to the newly ordained priests followed by the presbyter-ate of the Church of Sacramento extending the gift of peace to their newly ordained brothers.



Photo by Cathy Joyce, *Catholic Herald*

The Three Newly Ordained Priests Concelebrate the Eucharist with Bishop Soto

FATHER MAURICIO BEGINS HIS MINISTRY

After his ordination to the priesthood, Father Mauricio celebrated First Masses in the diocese and in Mexico. On July 1, he began his first appoint as parochial vicar of Saint Mel Parish with Father Liam McSweeney, who was pastor. Father Mauricio participated with Father McSweeney in planning the new parish center. He spent two years as parochial vicar at the Fair Oaks parish.



Photo by John E Boll

Saint Mel Church, Fair Oaks

SECOND APPOINTMENT, REDDING

From Fair Oaks, Father Mauricio was assignment to Our lady of Mercy Parish in Redding, working with Father Jonathan Molina who was pastor. Fathers Mauricio and Jonathan worked well together and made a good team. Father Mauricio served in Redding for two years, 2012 to 2014.



Our Lady of Mercy Church, Redding

NEXT APPOINTMENT, SAINT JAMES, DAVIS



Saint James Church, Davis

Photo by John E Boll 2011

Father Mauricio's third parish assignment was to Saint James Parish in Davis working with Father James Doogan. This appointment was for only one year because Father Mauricio's talents were needed in South Lake Tahoe after Father Ben DeLeon was transferred to Corpus Christi parish in Tahoe City.

ADMINISTRATOR OF SAINT THERESA PARISH, SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

Besides being a talented and energetic young priest, Father Mauricio is also fully bi-lingual. Spanish is his first language and South Lake Tahoe has many Spanish speaking Catholics who need a priest they can communicate with in Spanish. Bishop Soto wisely appointed Father Mauricio as administrator of the South Lake Tahoe parish where he presently serves.

Father Mauricio is fortunate to have Father John Grace, pastor emeritus of the parish who served as pastor of South Lake Tahoe for fifty years, and Monsignor Murrough Wallace who is also pastor emeritus of the same parish. These two former pastors are a great support and help to Father Mauricio. Monsignor Wallace who has his own home in the Tahoe Keys area continues to help at the parish by celebrating Masses as needed and overseeing the many weddings that are celebrated in Saint Theresa Church during the year.

During the 2016-17 academic year, Seminarian Manny Rodriguez is spending his pastoral year at Saint Theresa Parish with Father Mauricio as his pastoral mentor.



Photo by John E Boll 2012

Saint Theresa Church, South Lake Tahoe

ARCHIVIST'S COMMENT

Photo by Cathy Joyce, *Catholic Herald*



Seminarian Mauricio Hurtado lived in residence one summer at Saint Anthony Parish in Sacramento when I was pastor there. I had the opportunity to get to know Mauricio. I was greatly impressed with him because he is a well-balanced and wholesome young man. During the summer months when he did his CPE course at UC Davis Hospital, he joined his fellow countrymen late at night to play soccer. Mauricio loves to play soccer and is a skilled player.

The Diocese of Sacramento is blessed to have Father Mauricio as one of its priests. He is an intelligent, compassionate and well-balanced priest and I am confident he will do much good for the people of God as he journeys with them as their brother, friend, teacher and father. Thank you Mauricio for saying yes to God's call to you to serve His people as a priest.



Mauricio's 2008 Soccer Team

Photo courtesy of Fr Mauricio Hurtado



Photo courtesy of Fr Mauricio Hurtado

Mauricio and his Mother Antonia



**Fathers Joe Ternullo, Manuel Soria and John Boll visit Father Mauricio & Msgr Wallace
South Lake Tahoe, November 2016**



Photo by John E Boll 2016

Lake Tahoe's Emerald Bay



Father Mauricio at Saint Theresa Parish, South Lake Tahoe, January 2017

Published with the approval of Father Mauricio Hurtado