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***BACKGROUND***

The following information was provided from a series of articles from the Catholic Register newspaper ([www.catholicregister.org](http://www.catholicregister.org)) profiling the seven seminarians to be ordained for Toronto on May 9, 2009.

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**Rev. Mr. Ricardo Quiñones**

**Finding God's way**

Rev. Mr. Ricardo Quiñones, 40, was born and raised in Paraguay.

His life changed when he experienced the love of God in a community of the Neocatechumenal Way in his home parish in Asunción, Paraguay. He decided to announce the Gospel with his life when he was working as a teacher in a Catholic high school in Asunción.

He came to Canada in the midst of a snowstorm in January 1999 to enter the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary.

He is looking forward to serving the Archdiocese of Toronto and the universal church as a diocesan priest.

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**Rev. Mr. Frank Portelli**

**Finding fulfilment in God**

Rev. Mr. Frank Portelli, 33, was born and raised in Toronto, and as a young adult was much more interested in clubbing and having a good time than becoming a priest.

"I believed priesthood was only for the naive and the wholesome."

After graduating, he got a job but was unable to find happiness. "I started to wonder what the purpose of my life was," he said.

Then he started to ask himself the "eternal question: What am I doing here?" He remembers torturing himself with questions about the existence of God and, through faith, finally found a way out of his "conundrum."

"I began to pray and to sincerely seek God and saw that God wanted something from me that I wasn't willing to give: my entire heart and life," said Portelli.

"After much struggle, prayer and discernment, I see that fulfilment is seeking God and loving sacrificially every day."

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**Rev. Mr. Thomas Lim**

**Priesthood ends spiritual, moral bankruptcy**

Rev. Mr. Thomas Lim, 40, was born in Indonesia and came to Canada at the age of four with his parents and seven siblings.

He graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Commerce degree and embarked on a lucrative career in the financial industry in Toronto. His career objective at the time, he says, was "to make as much money as possible."

And he was good at it. He had money, an expensive car, a home, but felt "spiritually and morally bankrupt," he said.

"For a dozen years I didn't practice my faith at all," said Lim.

Then one winter he committed to attending Mass every day in Lent and, through that process, "became addicted to the Lord," he said.

Lim gradually discerned his call to the priesthood and entered St. Augustine's Seminary in 2003.

## **Rev. Mr. Eric Rodrigues**

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### **Answering Our Lady's call**

Rev. Mr. Eric Rodrigues, 32, was born and raised in Toronto and had dreams of becoming a doctor, getting married and raising a family.

He studied biochemistry at the University of Waterloo and completed a master's degree in epidemiology at McGill University. He returned to Toronto and worked for a year with a pharmaceutical company, and was in a "fairly serious" relationship with a girlfriend.

When he first heard his calling, he was torn because "I felt happy in the Church and happy in my relationship." He credits Our Lady with deepening his relationship with Jesus, and this led him to enter St. Augustine's Seminary in 2004.

Rodrigues looks forward to giving glory to God by serving His people in the Archdiocese of Toronto.

## **Rev. Mr. Paul Magyar**

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### **Family fuels faith formation**

Rev. Mr. Paul Magyar, 27, was born in Slovakia and came to Toronto when he was nine years old.

Magyar graduated from the University of Toronto studying East Asian religions and Western Philosophy. As a student he studied martial arts and body building and worked part time for a security company, where assignments included providing protection for rock bands such as the Rolling Stones and AC/DC, for Britney Spears and for Pope John Paul II.

Yet his interesting and active life never overshadowed his initial calling and desire to become a priest.

"I learned my faith through my family," he said. "I wanted to be a priest since I was five years old."

Magyar entered St. Augustine's Seminary in 2004 and during the first two summers he worked as a chaplain for air cadets in Greenwood, N.S.

He retains an interest in martial arts but says he is now more concerned with his spiritual fitness.

Magyar has found and is ready to fulfill his destiny.

## **Rev. Mr. Steven Dickson**

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### **'Normal guy' finds his calling**

Rev. Mr. Steven Dickson, 29, was baptized and received into the church at the Easter Vigil in 1997 at the age of 17.

He began to feel the Lord calling in his early 20s while at York University. "But I kept saying to myself, 'Steve, you're just a normal guy. No way you could be a priest,'" he recalls.

It was a providential meeting of a seminary faculty member at a youth rally at Martyrs' Shrine in Midland that gave Dickson the final push he needed to answer the Lord's call.

"He asked me if I had ever thought of becoming a priest," Dickson said.

"He made me think that priesthood was something I could really do."

After spending some time in discernment at Serra House while studying philosophy, Dickson entered St. Augustine's Seminary in 2004. He looks forward to serving the Lord and the people of the Archdiocese of Toronto in his future ministry.

## **Rev. Mr. Carlos Troya**

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### **Colombian ordinandi ends up choosing his right boss**

Rev. Mr. Carlos Troya, 31, was born and raised in Colombia.

He experienced the love of God in a community of the NeoCatechumenal Way in his home parish in Colombia. While attending a weekend retreat, he felt called to the priesthood.

"If you don't want to be cheated by your boss, choose the right boss," he remembers hearing.

So he decided to "leave behind my family, friends, country and culture to risk everything for the Lord."

He entered the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary of Toronto in May 1999.

He is looking forward to serving the Archdiocese of Toronto and the universal church.