



The Serra Club of Arlington
Minutes for Tuesday 01 April 2025 | Luncheon Meeting
The Portofino Restaurant | Arlington, Virginia



GUEST SPEAKER – FATHER ZINJIN IGLESIAS

Ordained in 2023, Fr. Zinjin Iglesia is currently serving at St. Anthony of Padua in Falls Church. A Virginia Beach native, he originally studied Biology at George Mason University in pursuit of a career in dentistry. However, in the midst of his studies, God pursued him, leading him to discover a new home in the Diocese of Arlington, fall in love with Jesus Christ, and ultimately respond to the call to the Priesthood. Accidental to those discoveries were newfound quasi-addictions to espresso brewing, authentic Mexican tacos, and time spent with the Missionaries of Charity

Highlights: Father Iglesia summarized his reflections on his path to becoming a priest and reflected on hearing God “speak” to him on his journey. In no particular order:

- Thanked Serrans for praying for him
- He comes from a small family living at Virginia Beach. Typical Philipino house with many statues and Crosses. Home schooled then public school. Grew up “a good Catholic boy” attending Mass, praying the Rosary and occasional prayers. Part of boy’s youth group with “free food.” Typical “beach boy.”
- Was a marijuana dealer in the 9th grade thinking it was “good” and part of the beach culture.
- Went to George Mason University with thoughts of being “free from the parents,” and was “done” being Catholic now that he was apart from his parents. Used by his fraternity as he had a car. Zinjin was interested in becoming a dental assistant helping the poor and homeless.
- Then God “works mysteriously” as he found himself going to Mass one Wednesday. Was chased down by Father Peter wearing his vestments, who invited him to a retreat in Virginia Beach. He attended lured by free Chinese food for freshmen. Went to Mass again at the Catholic chapel on campus, twice. Went on the retreat as Father Peter paid for his housing. This was Father Iglesia’s “God moment.” At retreat, Zinjin encountered the true Catholic community. Fell in love with Jesus Christ. Met with “surfer priest” for confession. Was asked, “when are you going to be a man for God?” Everything changed and Zinjin became a bible study leader. Realized he needed to shed his “bad convictions” as you don’t want to share that with the Load.
- Traveled to Poland as part of World Youth Day. Traveled the steps of Saint John Paul II in Poland. Was praying in Adoration and heard the Lord say, “Zinjin, I love you and I want you.” Haunted by the calling to Priesthood.
- Returned from Poland to Discernment. Father Searby as Chaplain and Spiritual director. Had last date with his girlfriend at church when she stated that she heard the Lord say, “Can I have him for myself?”
- Loved the seminary. Approximately 80 men, close fraternal group. Arlington priests share life with one another.