



Dear Parishioners of San Rafael,

I am Father Ramsés Mendieta Lacayo and it is a great honor to be serving soon as one of your associate pastors. I was born and raised in Managua, Nicaragua for 20 years of my life. My faith and my vocation were cultivated and nurtured within a small family; my father Roger, my mother Sandra, and my only brother, Roger, who is 7 years older than me.

However, the sense of family widened as I served in my parish of San Luis Gonzaga. Having served in different ministries such as altar servers, readers, brotherhoods, and youth ministry encouraged me in my vocational discernment. Although I began to discover the call of God in my life from a very young age, I waited until 5 years later. At the age of 20 when I was in the university, I made the decision to enter the seminar in Managua. However, God's ways are mysterious and lead you to unimaginable places like Arkansas. Matilde Crutchfield, a family friend and longtime resident of Little Rock, encouraged me to follow my vocation, which I call missionary. It was after constant communication with Monsignor Scott Friend and the support of my family and my parish that I embarked for Arkansas to discern the priestly call.

Almost 7 years have passed by since I arrived in our diocese, and indeed Saint Raphael was one of the first parishes I met. Now as a new stage opens in my ministry, it is my deep desire to serve you and accompany you on your path of faith. At the same time, I know that you, through your prayers and service, will feed my faith and devotion to Christ and his Church. May God bless you all and may Mary Most Holy lead you to the heart of Christ! See you soon!

- Fr. Ramsés Mendieta Lacayo