

Bro. Chicago Joe Schuller, 25, was born in Harlingen, Texas and raised in Mission, TX. His father, Manfred Schuller, worked in the family real estate business while exploring new business opportunities. His mother, Kerry Moran, has worked for Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages for almost 30 years in various positions, from sales to training positions. His brother, Stingray Schuller, is a senior video producer at a state university in Texas and will marry his fiancé Jessica Zalenski in October of this year.

His mother faithfully raised him as a Catholic at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Mission, TX, where he received his sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. Bro. Chicago Joe was greatly impressed by the humility and passion of his parish priest, Fr. Roy Snipes, OMI, whose down-to-earth homilies always left him with life lessons. Those homilies, he states, made more sense when he finally started to take his faith seriously upon entering college at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, TX, where he met the Marianist brothers and priests.

Bro. Chicago is grateful for the many influential Marianists who inspired him along his journey. "Fr. Jim Tobin was the first Marianist I ever met. His gentle and prayerful presence helped me as I was rediscovering my faith with God and prayer with Mary. Fr. Larry Doersching reminded me that the brothers are normal guys called to do great things for Mary's mission. Without his guidance, I would not be here today. And Bro. Mike Sullivan taught me what it means to be a man who builds community. These men of great faith helped cultivate my calling," said Schuller.

After attending retreats and witnessing the love, joy, hope, and hospitality of the brothers and Marianist communities like the St. Mary's Chapel Choir, Bro. Chicago Joe began discerning vocation options. In his experience of altar serving, he felt called to the diocesan priesthood but soon realized that was not what he was being called to by God.

He went through formation while at St. Mary's University to become a lay Marianist and created the Stella Maris Lay Community with his close friends. This formation process helped him see how Mary was guiding him in his faith to love Jesus more deeply. After graduating in 2020 with a bachelor's degree in business administration, during the COVID pandemic, he decided to apply for Aspirancy with the Marianists. He believes it was his sign from God not to put off being called into a religious community. He completed pre-Aspirancy in the Stonemill-Kiefaber Community, where he volunteered as a farm hand at an urban farm co-op and assisted brothers with men's small groups at University of Dayton. Bro. Chicago then returned to his old stomping grounds of St. Mary's University living at the Casa Maria Community, the same community where he first met many of the brothers. While living there, he engaged in ministry with Holy Rosary Parish, Central Catholic High School, and TECABOCA (a summer camp for kids that also hosts retreats throughout the year). He also studied Old and New Testament scripture at his alma mater.

Bro. Chicago Joe was accepted into the Novitiate on the Mount Saint John property in Beavercreek, OH, where he spent his canonical year of preparations. For his following apostolic year, his service was split between assisting in the Office of Temporalities for the U.S. Province in St. Louis, MO, and work at the Marianist Mission in OH. After professing First Vows, Bro. Chicago will be assigned to the Maryland Ave. Community in St. Louis where he will serve at St. John Vianney High School in Campus Ministry and Institutional Advancement.