

Jesus Eduardo Martinez Solis, 37

First assignment: St. Colette, Rolling Meadows

Education: Elementary and high school in Mexico; Instituto Technologice de Monterrey, Mexico

Parents: Maria del Carmen Solis and Eduardo Martinez

First Mass: 6 p.m. May 20 at St. James, Arlington Heights



Ask most priests when they knew they had a vocation to the priesthood, and they will tell you that God had some help asking them to consider it. For Eduardo Martinez, it was a priest friend in Monterrey, Mexico, that gave him a nudge in 1997.

"It made me start to think about God's plan for me," Martinez said. "I decided at least to give it a try and it worked."

But the ministry will not be Martinez's first career. He went to university and majored in communications and public relations, then worked for five years as a communications manager for a Monterrey brewery. He took that experience and used it to build a business as an event planner- a business he kept going for three years.

"All those experiences are, in some way or another, helpful to better understand the needs of the people of God," Martinez said, "Also, my own experience as an immigrant, as a Catholic growing in my faith, etc., I know that I am walking with people and for the people of God."

Martinez said he wants to be able to help people feel the love and mercy of God in their lives. "It will be my goal that every person that I meet come to realize that God really cares for them, as he cares for me. To share my own faith, life and love is everything that I want."

Charles E. Musula, 33

First assignment: St. Paul of the Cross, Park Ridge