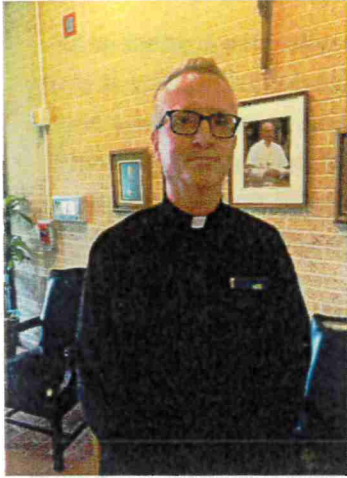


Father Trey Crespo Vocation Story



My vocation story starts here in Friendswood, Tx. I was born in 1962 and am the eldest of 3 siblings. My sister Teresa lives in Tomball, Tx and my other sister Gina, unfortunately passed away when she was only 3 days old. My parents were not practicing Catholics, but they did not stand in the way of others who were willing to shepherd me in my faith.

The most influential people in my Catholic formation early on were my grandmother and my Aunt Rosie. I can still remember my grandmother helping me learn my devotional prayers. Every Saturday night I would lay out my clothes for church and the next morning my grandmother would pick me up and take me to Mass at Mary Queen. During my school years my Aunt Rosie was the one who made sure I went to Mass and received all the sacraments up through confirmation. She lived just across the street from us and every Sunday morning I would run over to her house and ride to church with her and my cousins. I was very excited to go to church, and sometimes I would show up as much as an hour early! She would just smile and make me some breakfast. I remember looking out during my confirmation Mass and seeing my Aunt Rosie along with my cousins. They were my support. Through my Aunt Rosie's dedication, the foundation for my priesthood was built.

As a teen I began working in my family's funeral business and by the time I was in my 40's I was doing very well in my career. However, I wasn't having as much success at being a faithful Catholic. My attendance at church was hit and miss and somehow my grandmother knew it. One day during a visit with her I was sitting close to her with my head resting on her shoulder watching "Wheel of Fortune," when she stroked my hair and asked me if I was happy. I responded that I was very happy. She said "well, if you're that happy then you need to go to church and be thankful!" I don't know how she knew I wasn't going to church, but I resolved that I was going to make a change and that weekend I went to St. Helen's.

I became a very active parishioner at St. Helen's, and one Sunday during Mass when the priest elevated the chalice something clicked in me, and I asked myself the question "do I want to do that"? I quickly dismissed the thought with a "Nah, of course not!" Later a supernatural experience led me to consider the priesthood again. I was serving as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion when a young woman holding the hand of a young child of no more than 2 years old appeared in my line to receive Holy Communion. The child was too young to receive and had his head bowed and arms crossed, so I bent down and touched his shoulder as I prayed for his protection. When the child raised his head we looked directly into each other's eyes, and he smiled the most beautiful smile I had ever seen. As he smiled at me, I began to cry and I heard Our Lord's command to Peter, "feed my sheep". The boy's mother then took his hand and they walked to the side of the church towards the tabernacle, and I had the sense that I wanted to go where they were going. I watched as they walked around the back of the tabernacle and never

came out the other side. After Communion was over, I sought out all the ushers to see if any of them had seen what I had seen, but none of them had any idea what I was talking about.

That incident was so powerful to me that I went to Father Jim Courville who was a priest at St. Helen's and a good friend and asked for his advice. He pointed me in the right direction at every turn and was integral in helping me discern my vocation. He was a lifeline to me in many ways. Eventually Father Skip from Mary Queen heard that I was discerning and put me in touch with the LaSalette vocation director. Over the course of the next year, I continued to discern and made a come and see visit to the LaSalette formation house in Washington, DC. and a short time later I entered the novitiate there.

One of the things that drew me to La Salette was that I identified with the young boy Maximin, from the apparition of Our Lady of La Salette. When Maximin saw the beautiful lady rise into the air after she spoke to him and Melanie, he wanted to go where she was going. That resonated with me because that is how I felt when I had the experience of seeing the woman and the young child walk toward the tabernacle and disappear. I wanted to go where they were going. I recalled that moment years later when I took my solemn vows at the apparition site on La Salette Mountain.

I was ordained to the priesthood in 2019 at St. Helen's. My fondest memory of the day of my ordination is looking out at the people who were there to support me and understanding in that moment the beauty of community.

Father Trey's Favorites...

Favorite Saint - Our Blessed Mother, Saint Padre Pio, Saint José Sánchez del Río

Favorite saying – Pray, hope, and don't worry (Saint Padre Pio)

Favorite hymn – I Have Loved You

Favorite hobby- surfing YouTube and listening to inspirational podcasts

Favorite YouTuber/podcaster – Fr. Mike Schmitz, Casey Cole, Bishop Barron

Favorite sport /team – baseball / Astros!

Favorite music – 80's bands (Eagles, Boston)

Favorite movie – For Greater Glory (St. José Sánchez del Río story)

Favorite movie – ELF!!

Favorite cuisine – Mexican (especially Gringos and Ranchos Mexican Grill)

Favorite drink – Sonic cherry limeade

Favorite candy – Reese's Peanut Butter Cups

~ Pray, hope, and don't worry. ~