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R.N. takes Capuchin vows

01/04/2007
 - As life often proves, it's not the destination but the journey. And in the case of Zolio Garibay, who traveled from the Philippines to Detroit.



A native of the Philippines and a registered nurse, Zolio Garibay professes his Capuchin vows.

His real journey is about to begin as the newest member of the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph in this the year of the order's 150th anniversary in the Americas.

On Dec. 3, Garibay (whose nickname is Zoy) professed his Capuchin vows. It's been a journey that he said began with the Capuchin's warm hospitality.

"I was attending daily Mass at St. Bonaventure's chapel when one of the brothers approached and thanked me for being there," he said. "I was struck by the warm welcome. The Philippine culture values hospitality. When Brother Patrick went out of his way to greet me, it struck a chord within me."

At the time, Garibay was working the night shift as an ICU R.N. at Henry Ford Hospital. The long nights were capped by morning Mass at the Capuchin chapel located adjacent to the Solanus Center.

"I would come directly from work and would be in my hospital scrubs. I would look around and see a true cross section of Detroit. There would be professionals, the homeless and the infirmed. I began to realize the Capuchins were the people's friars. Every morning they would heal us sacramentally. I was healing bodies. They were healing

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souls," Garibay said.

"As I learned more about the Capuchins and got to know the friars, I realized their values were a direct reflection of my own values. As I went through the discernment process, it became very evident that my calling was to use my medical knowledge in ministry work."

Born in 1976, he was educated in the Philippines and attended high school seminary at St. Vincent Ferrer Seminary, graduating in 1993. In March 1997, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from West Visayas State University in the Philippines.

His father is a surgeon who is still in the Philippines and his brother is in medical school there.

His mother, a practicing nurse, and two sisters live in Detroit.

Garibay has worked at Henry Ford Hospital since 1997 in the cardiac progressive care unit, the surgical intensive care and ICU.

Garibay has spent the last year in the Capuchin novitiate, this year located in the Pittsburgh area.

He took his vows in the very chapel that captured his heart seven years ago. He will be doing his post-novitiate at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago.

"My novitiate year has been a time to deepen my relationship with God and enabled me to have a deeper understanding of my vocation and of myself," he said.

His mother and sisters attended the ceremony.