



Our Men in Black

Father Ariel A. Valencia Pastor, St. Monica, Carpentersville

When things do not go my way. I realize I am not in charge.

What have you learned from your brother priests?

Pope John Paul II, “The Theology of the Body.”

Advice for young people considering a vocation

Being a priest or being a nun is to witness to God’s presence. People look to our witness of life. It is not always easy. But allow God to live through you, to shine through you. As someone said, “If you are to be light, you must endure burning.”



Something about you few people would know

I collect chocolate wrappers.

Favorite hobby or pastime

Reading, watching films and musical plays, playing Wii.

Favorite temporal things

“The Lion King,” World Youth Day, “Third Rock from the Sun.”

Favorite prayer

Anima Christi. It connects (me) more to the Eucharist.

Favorite saint

St. Aloysius Gonzaga. The first seminary I entered is named after him. I am inspired by his dedication even at a young age.

What has been a holy moment for you in your priesthood?