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family is a very Catholic family, and the bishop, priests, sisters visited home, it never occurred to me that I might be a priest. And in fact, other than myself, no-one else in the family became a priest or sister.

So what happened for me to make this decision?

Something very simple! When I was just eleven, a pupil at the Salesian school in Saltillo in the north of Mexico, my mum suddenly fell ill and died two weeks later. Three days before she died, however, I was able to talk with her. I wanted some money to buy a pair of runners. I loved playing games, especially basketball. She said to me: "But do you know how I've always asked God if one of my sons could be a priest? I have had six boys and not one has gone to the seminary". And just wanting my runners, I said: "And I'm the one!" She smiled and gave me the money for the shoes. As I have said, she died three days later. The most interesting thing about this is that I asked for a pair of runners and I got a vocation!

In fact a few days later I went to talk to my teacher and told him simply that I wanted to be a Salesian priest. I certainly did not mention the talk with my mum. I did this only 14 years later, the day of my ordination. That is when I told my father, brothers and sisters: "Maybe you want to know how I ended up a priest". And I told them.

Now I can see how God has guided me through life! He really has been wonderful with me! I am not referring to the fact that I happen to be Rector Major of the Salesians. I am speaking of the gift of a vocation, because it is the most wonderful gift the Lord gave me other than the gift of life and faith.

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ing, and this means it has direction, goals to achieve and enormous energy, the result of motivation. This is because we have a reason for being who we are and doing what we do happily, optimistically, convinced that we are useful.

I really think the general problem for young people is not brought about by seeking drugs, or the result of alcohol, or confusion about their sexuality, but rather the lack of meaning and motivation in life. This is why they fall for the temptation to exploit the present, experiment with strong emotions, or just live indifferently.

By becoming a Salesian I wanted to give my whole life to God on behalf of the young, like Don Bosco.

Once I had completed my formation in Guadalajara, and immediately after ordination, I was sent to do my Licenciante in Sacred Scripture in Rome, at the Pontifical Biblical Institute, then Jerusalem at the Hebrew University. I became a Professor in Biblical Studies and Rector of the Theologate in Tlaquepaque-Mexico for nine years, then Provincial of

