

A close-up, profile shot of a man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a white clerical shirt. He is looking down at a small, dark object he is holding in his hands. The background is blurred, showing another person in similar attire.

# FINDING HOME

The journey of a seminarian  
in search of his place  
in the world

*Like many people, Cederick Morando spent years looking for the place where he belonged.*

At 6, he and his family moved to California from the Philippines. They lived with his faith-filled extended family, including grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. He loved Japanese animation, playing video games and taking care of animals.

At 14, Cederick started exploring his personal relationship with God and religion. He quickly discovered a new sense of purpose. After high school, he went to college for elementary education, but felt restless. He just wasn't in the right place.

As time passed, Cederick started thinking more and more about religious life. He discerned with the Claretians, but that didn't feel like the right fit, either.

Someone from his parish connected Cederick with an SVD Vocation Director and in no time, he was in Epworth, Iowa for a Come and See Visit at Divine Word College. That's where things shifted. Cederick said he still can't quite explain it, but he felt like he finally found where he belonged.

It wasn't until he enrolled and started settling into his role as an SVD candidate that Cederick started recognizing a number of signs that perhaps this is where God had been calling him to serve all along.

"My main priority is to seek out God's will for my life at the present moment, always remaining open to where the Holy Spirit moves me," he said. "God knows us more than we do and God loves us more than we could ever love ourselves, so it stands to reason that following His path is the best way to go."

Cederick is interested in teaching, social work or maybe even serving as a counselor in the future. In May, he graduated from Divine Word College. Cederick expected to continue discerning with the SVDs but a sudden, unexpected shift changed his plans. Still, his faith remains steady.

"God takes us in unexpected directions sometimes, the most important thing is to keep yourself open to the will of God," he said.