

**With praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God the Diocese of Belize City and Belmopan joyfully announces the ordination of Deacon Emmanuel Medina and Deacon Shajir Eliezer Pech to the Priesthood. The Most Rev. Lawrence Nicasio, Bishop of Belize City and Belmopan, will be the Chief Celebrant at Holy Redeemer Cathedral in Belize City on Saturday, June 17.**



Rev. Mr. Emmanuel Medina was born in August Pine Ridge in the Orange Walk District, where his faith was nourished by the unique and strong Catholicism of his parish, La Inmaculada. While he heard the call to the priesthood from a young age, it was only after spending several years in the teaching profession that he recognized in the people he served the form of priesthood to which he felt called. In college he was introduced to a strong faith-based education that nourished his intellect at Muffles Junior College, and it was in volunteering with the Missionaries of the Poor in Kingston, Jamaica that he recognized the joys of service.

His pastoral experiences took him to Sacred Heart in Troy Missouri for three years among other parishes in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, MO. Living in St Louis, MO., a city with a strong Catholic presence, he learned profound

lessons about community and discipleship. During theological studies, he led formation programs to form laypeople in his parish and assisted in preparing and leading retreats for confirmation, volunteering at St. Vincent de Paul and working with youth ministry. He says his teaching experience both as a teacher and school principal, missionary works, and philosophical studies at Saint Louis University, were some of the greatest gifts which enhanced his priestly formation.

Emmanuel earned a Bachelor's degree in Education at the University of Belize; a Master's degree in Education at Nova Southeastern University in Florida; a Master's degree in Divinity at Kenrick Glennon Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. Following his ordination to the priesthood on Saturday, June 17, Emmanuel will serve in the Diocese of Belize City and Belmopan, Belize.



Rev. Mr. Shajir Pech was born in Louisville Village, Corozal District, and grew up in Santa Clara Village, Corozal. From an early age, he felt the call to the priesthood. The excellent example of priests in his parish inspired him to consider this call.

In 2015 he joined Saint Benedict Seminary in Santa Elena, Cayo. He did some general courses at Sacred Heart Junior College and Saint John Paul II Junior College. In 2017, he was sent to Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in Saint Louis, Missouri. In 2019, he graduated from Saint Louis University with a Bachelor's in Philosophy, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

In the theology program, he had the opportunity to serve at several parishes. He served at Saint Gabriel the Archangel in Saint Louis while he helped with Life Teen. He also served at Saint

Elizabeth Mother of John the Baptist in Saint Louis, where he had the experience of teaching RCIA. In his third year of theology, he served at Saint Raphael the Archangel in Saint Louis while helping at Saint Dominic High School in O'Fallon, Missouri. On June 11, 2022, he was Ordained a Deacon at Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Corozal. He served at Saint Cecilia Parish, a Hispanic parish in Saint Louis. There he had the opportunity to help with a youth group, a young adult group (Jornadas), baptismal preparation, and teaching some classes to the different groups in the parish.

On May 13, 2023, he graduated with a Master's in the Arts of Theology and a Master's in Divinity from Kenrick-Glennon Seminary and a Sacred Theology Bachelor's degree (S.T.B.) from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

He will be Ordained to the Sacred Priesthood of Jesus Christ on Saturday, June 17, 2023, at the Holy Redeemer Cathedral in Belize City at 10:00 a.m.