



## **Brother Ricardo Rivera, Sch.P. Professes Solemn Vows**

**Brother Ricardo David Rivera Ortiz of the Face of Jesus and of St. Joachim professed his solemn (perpetual) religious vows during a nearly two-hour, bilingual Mass before the Superior General of the Piarist Fathers at St. Helena Church in the Parkchester section of Bronx, NY on June 23, 2018. All Piarists profess the usual three religious vows of poverty, chastity and obedience as well as a special fourth religious vow to educate youth, especially the poor.**

**Brother Ricardo completed his third year of theology studies at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, NY in May.**

**He is the third of five children of Dr. Hector and Zelideth Rivera of Adjuntas, PR. He began his discernment with the Piarist Fathers in 2006 and graduated with a BFA and a concentration in painting from the University of Puerto Rico in 2011. He did some professional modeling before joining the Piarist Fathers, when he was sent to Miami to study philosophy. He graduated with a BA in 2013 from St. John Vianney Seminary and was then sent to Mexico**

City for his novitiate. He then made temporary vows and was sent to Ponce, PR to complete his teaching certification, which he did at the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico in 2015. He was then sent to St. Helena Parish in the Bronx for his theological studies. He enjoys singing and is a first tenor with the St. Joseph's Seminary *Schola Cantorum* (student choir).

Brother Ricardo's family flew in for the event. Also present were priests from the seminary, over 100 parishioners and more than 30 members from the Piarist Fathers Province of the United States and Puerto Rico. They attended the solemn profession, which was made before the Piarists' Superior General, Father Pedro Aquado, Sch.P. He flew in from the Piarists' Generalate in Rome for the occasion.

Solemn vows are taken publicly and are received by a religious superior in the name of the Church. A religious community of men, whose members profess solemn vows, is called a *religious order*, and its members are called *clerics regular*. The formal name of the Piarist Fathers is the Order of Poor Clerics Regular of the Mother of God of the Pious Schools. Founded by St. Joseph Calasanz in 1617, the Piarist Fathers is the only religious order of men, whose members profess a religious vow to educated youth. St. Joseph Calasanz opened the world's first free public school in Europe in 1597. There are now about 1,400 Piarists, who minister in 36 countries around the world.

