

### Brief Biography

My name is Rajasekhar Chittem from the Diocese of Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, India. I was blessed to have been born into a traditional Catholic family, which consisted of my parents and three brothers, of which I am the middle child. My father worked as a clerk for the Irrigation Department, and my mother took care of our family and our home. My mother is a devout Catholic, who inspired me in my spiritual upbringing.



At the early age of eight, my Pastor inspired me to want to become a priest. I witnessed how my pastor showed us the joyful, lovable, playful, and prayerful side of being Catholic and I wanted to be like him. Without knowing anything about the priesthood I felt God's call me to be a priest. At age eight, I told my mother that one day I would become like our parish priest. This desire was always echoing in my mind. After High School, I entered the Minor Seminary. I was ordained a priest in the Year of Priesthood on April 26, 2010, and I happily celebrated the eighth year of my priesthood recently.

My priestly appointments have included a variety of duties and experiences. First, I served as Associate Director in the Diocese of Nellore Pastoral Center. My task was to study and identify the pastoral and spiritual needs of God's people. Second, I was appointed to identify and survey Diocesan lands, and I was to verify that their survey numbers were properly registered and recorded. After this, I was appointed Pastor of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Shrine in Maramreddypalli. After, I served for three years as Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Dornala. Lastly, I was assigned as Associate Pastor of St. Joseph Church in Conway, Arkansas, USA.

I have always believed in my Ordination Motto: "**In Thee I Bloom**". Wherever I am, and whatever I am, I am very happy that I can joyfully do the work of the Lord. He, Who called me, takes care of me. I want to be like Him! I want to be like Jesus!

My favorite Bible verse is:

**"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;  
I came so that they may have life, and have it abundantly."  
- (John 10:10).**

May God bless you,

Fr. Rajasekhar Chittem.