

### **Fr. Stefano Lee Bio**

Fr. Stefano (Moung- Kyu) Lee was born in Masan City in the southern part of South-Korea on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August, 1975. He has one older brother as a sibling.

When he was in grade 2, he was baptized together with his mother and older brother, but his father who was a traditional and devout Buddhist was baptized when Fr. Lee was about to be ordained a deacon. Fr. Stefano was so happy and gave thanks to the Lord for allowing his family to form a Eucharistic family.

Since childhood, Fr. Lee has been devoted to the Blessed Virgin, Mother Mary by reciting the Holy Rosary often and he wanted to become a priest because he loved to stay in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ at the church. This passion made him enter the diocesan seminary in Korea in 1994.

He joined the Korean military service, which is mandatory for Korean men, after two years of schooling.

After 26 months of military service, he went to the Philippines for the study of English. In the Philippines, he stayed with Filipino Missionary priests and seminarians for 5 months which led him on a road to become a missionary. After completion of his university studies (4 years' seminary course), he joined the Korean Missionary Society, and then he continued to study for 5 more years (graduation course, Novitiate and Overseas Training Program). During the missionary formation, he had an opportunity to have an Overseas training program in Papua New Guinea.

Right after his priestly ordination on July 12, 2007, he was sent to the Philippines and served until 2012. After serving as a Parochial Vicar in two parishes while he learned a local language, he became a parish pastor located in the mountainous area. After 10 months of serving God with local people, Fr. Lee came back to Korea where he served in a Korean local church as a guest priest for about one year.

Following that year Fr. Lee went to New Zealand in 2014 where he served the local church for 4 years as an associate pastor and as a pastor.

In 2019, Fr. Lee came to Canada and served Korean Churches in the Archdiocese of Toronto for one year and a half as an associate pastor. He also served at St. Francis Xavier Parish, Mississauga which is a cross-cultural church, for about 2 years.

In June 2022, Fr. Lee became associate pastor at St. Joseph Parish, assisting Monsignor Kroetsch. Earlier this year, on April 1<sup>st</sup>, he was incardinated into the Diocese of Hamilton and has now been assigned to St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Kitchener as a pastor effective June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023. He is going to put his best efforts to serve God's people in His vineyard at St. Teresa's Parish.

He loves to take landscape photos to try to capture God's images in grandeur. These photos have always given him inspiration and made him closer to God.