



## **Sebastian Springob, dipl. theol.**

*German, living in Attendorn (near Cologne)  
38 years old  
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To become a priest was a deep wish since I was 15 years old. Till then and up to my school-graduation I did a typical “altar-boy-career” with many activities in the parish, good experiences with the people and the feeling/awareness that faith is something very important for me. Step by step and after many conversations with priests, friends and my family I decided to enter the seminary right after school. I was very motivated and happy to go on this way, meet people with the same kind of vocation and study theology at university.

Already after a few months I realized that this way would not be so easy as expected. The contents of the studies were shaking my frame of faith (a very healthful shaking) and especially the disappointment about the way of thinking on the part of many seminarians arose strong doubts inside me, if this way would be really my way.

After two years I decided to leave the seminary with the intention to go on with my theological studies in another city and without the burden (that is how I sensed it) of seminary-life. This was a step that helped me a lot to develop myself and to build up a new and healthy kind of living faith and of course “life” by itself. I do not look back in anger on my “seminarian-life”, it was a very helpful and important (but also hard) experience without that I did not become the person I am today.

But during all the years I felt always that the question of choosing a devoted life is not answered wholeheartedly yet. There was always a spark of desire glowing in me that did not let me stop to search after a possibility to

realize and to live spirituality in a way that helps me to grow and to deepen my way of Christian living. Through my friendship with Fr. Christian I heard something about the Voluntas Dei Institute for the first time and I was very interested in all the things Fr. Christian told me about it. I was fascinated by the idea to integrate and to implant a Christian spirituality in the everyday life – in the “present moment”, in the “midst of the world”, with the (“only”) “Three fives”. So Fr. Christian gave me more information and during many conversations I felt that this could be the place where my spiritual desire would be answered.

Now I am already in my first year of probation and the contact with the Institute, the people, the spirit of Father Parent (that is always manifest among the community for example during the team meetings or the assemblies) and finally the particular spirituality of the “Three fives” enriched my life exceptionally. I am so thankful for all the encounters, the gatherings, the conversations and the friendships that evolved during the last three years. With that assistance and support I feel calm and safe to go on. Go on to deepen the Voluntas spirituality. Go on on my way to consecrated life and (maybe) becoming a priest one day.

I am looking forward seeing you again in August.  
Greetings and blessings from Germany!  
Sebastian

P.S.: All mistakes in grammar, vocabulary, tenses and phrases were obviously intended to test the native speakers :)

