

## Fr. Luan Tran Biography

I was born in 1963 in the middle of the Viet Nam War, in Saigon. My father served as an officer in the South Viet Nam Army. After the Fall of Saigon in 1975, life became wretched - my father along with hundreds of thousands former officers were sent to reeducation camp.

Meanwhile, the war with Khmer Rouge in 1979 was raging. Because of the mandatory draft, in order to save me from dying for the Communists, my mother arranged to have me join a small group of people who were planning to escape Viet Nam by sea. We left on one-engine fishing boat. Saved by an oil-rig and given food and water and fuel. We were directed to Malaysia. Our boat landed in a small island off the coast of Malaysia. I became one of those "Boat People" from South Vietnam on a journey in search of freedom. I spent seven months in the refugee camp and was sponsored to come to Portland by Msgr. Morton Park of Catholic Charities as an unaccompanied minor in August 1980.

I lived in a foster home with five other foster children of the same circumstances. I started high school again as a freshman at Grant High School. In 1981, in my second year at Grant High, I converted to Catholicism and was Baptized and Confirmed at the Vietnamese parish on NE Sandy. It was the beginning of my journey as a believer. A new chapter of my life.

I attended Portland State University after my graduation from Grant in 1983, majoring in Electrical Engineering. I graduated in 1987 and began to work as an intern for the Corps of Engineers. Having discerned a possible vocation to the priesthood, I applied and was accepted by the Archdiocese of Portland in 1988. I begin my seminary career in August 1989 at Mount Angel. Father Abbot Nathan was the formation director for me in my last year there as a fourth-year theologate student. I am forever grateful to Father Abbot for signing off on my ordination papers! He saw something in me and was willing to recommend to the then-Archbishop Levada that I be allowed to advance to Holy Orders! In my last year at Mount Angel I was also allowed by the Archbishop to apply for the Air Force Chaplain Candidate Program. I was accepted and was commissioned 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant! I was ordained in June 1994 at the Cathedral by Archbishop Levada.

My first assignment was associate pastor at St. Mary's in Corvallis. I was reassigned to Cathedral in 1995 as an associate pastor. I served there for 4 years until I was appointed Pastor of Nativity of the BVM in Rainier in 1999. Three years later, Archbishop Vlazny sent me to St Frederic in St. Helens in 2002. In 2010 I came to St. Birgitta.

I had been enjoying my life when the Vicar for Clergy called me and told me the Archbishop wanted to go to St. Agatha! And so that what has transpired up to this point.

By the way, I retired from the Air Force Reserve as a chaplain in 2014, after 24 years serving at the 939<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing in Portland and the 446<sup>th</sup> Air Wing at McChord Field in Tacoma.



Please join us in welcoming Fr. Luan!

We look forward to him joining the St. Agatha family! His first Masses will be the weekend of July 1!