

## My Life Is My Vocation

My name is Dalzert Owaili, and I am a diocesan candidate from the diocese of Aitape. I am doing my third year in theology in the Catholic theological Institute in Bomana, Port Moresby. It is my final year now, and I will be graduating in November this year (2015).

I would like to share the life of my vocation with you all. The Lord calls each person in different ways, no matter who you are and what you are (Jer 1:5). I was doing my grade eight when I began to have the thought of becoming a priest. This thought never disappeared from me, but for a while it was dormant in my heart. I did well in the national examinations, so I was selected to do grade nine to ten at St. Ignatius Secondary School. It was now in my high school days that I began to realise that inner voice which became active inside me. The desire of becoming a priest seemed to be the option of my future life that predominated over the others. It prompted me to seek advice and direction from the school's chaplain, Fr. Mathias (Ofm). With his help I came to believe that God had called me to be his servant.

After completing my grade ten, and without hesitation, I wrote to St. John Vianney Minor Seminary. I received the admission letter to begin my formation in the Minor Seminary. I was very happy and full of joy and looking forward to my new path of life. My formation in the seminary began with grade eleven and twelve as a spiritual formation in preparation for the major seminary. The first few weeks of my life in Minor Seminary were a bit troublesome. I had to wake up at 5:30 am to wash and go to the chapel for Morning Prayer, meditation, and Holy Mass. I was sitting on a fence now because the programs of the seminary were really challenging me. However, as time went by I slowly adjusted bit by bit to the seminary life. After a month I already had a good spirit regarding my formation. I enjoyed myself through my relationship with the formators and through socialization with my fellow seminarians.

The next phase of my formation would be in the Major Seminary. So after grade twelve I moved on to St. Charles Borromeo Major Seminary. That would take seven years for the formation. Unfortunately, after three years of philosophical studies I decided to take a year out. After a discussion with my bishop he then sent me to continue another three years of theological studies in Catholic Theological Institute. You may think that the life in the seminary is place over flowing with milk and honey. However, it was really a challenging moment of my life. Of course, there are many good things but also bad times that you would encounter. There are times I felt that I wanted to quit or wanted to find excuses to leave the seminary. But every time I wanted to do such things, I always asked myself, "Why now? I have come a long way and to leave would be a disgrace to myself." The formation in the Major Seminary would me prepare me for my future ministry. Moreover, the trials, temptations, and hardships that I have encountered empower and energize me to move on. I have come to the end of my formation now in the seminary, and reflecting back over the past years I have faith and hope in the Lord. He has called me and hand picked me from among the many and will not leave me alone. I firmly believe in the words of Christ. "Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done all that I have promised you. Gen 28:15).

I have reached the end of my formation in the seminary and I believe and have faith in my God who has been my chief and supreme formator all through my seminary years. I also believe that God has called me to be a priest to continue the work of the apostles. I am happy and full of confidence that God will continue to shower upon me his graces to be his faithful servant in my priestly mission. Therefore, I entrust myself and my whole life to God almighty and ask for the prayers of all my Christian brothers and sisters.