

Giles ITAMARI, My Formation Journey

My name is Giles Itamari, and I am a diocesan candidate of Bougainville Diocese. My parish is Tunuru in central Bougainville. I started my education in 2000 after the Bougainville crisis.

In 2002 I completed my primary school in St. Therese of Child Jesus primary school. In 2003 to 2004 I did my high school studies in a government school named Arawa High School. That was grade nine and ten. I completed high school in 2004, passed my exams, and continued on to grades eleven and twelve. In 2005 I applied to St. Peter Channel, Ulapia Minor Seminary in Rabaul (ENB). In 2006 I completed my studies in St. Peter Chanel Minor Seminary.

And in 2007 I applied to Bishop Henk Kronenberg SM to continue my seminary studies. In 2007 I was accepted by the bishop, and so I did my propaedeutic year at St. Joseph Formation Centre at Mabiri. During my propaedeutic year I went through two important courses of my formation, the PRH course and Saint Paul's Evangelization course. At the end of the year I applied again to the bishop for my philosophical studies and was accepted.

In 2008 to 2009 I did my first and second years philosophical studies in Sacred Heart Seminary Rapolo in Rabaul (ENB). Then in 2010 I went back to Bougainville to do my spiritual year of pastoral work at St. Joseph formation centre in Mabiri under the supervision of Fr. Ben Hiss. At the end of the year I applied once more to my bishop for my theological studies and was accepted again.

In 2011 to 2012 I came back to Sacred Heart Seminary to do my two years theological studies. And in 2013 I did my pastoral work back in my diocese under the supervision of a Marist priest, Fr. John Koran. During my pastoral work I was involved in helping Bishop Bernard launch the new pastoral plan for the Diocese. "Renewal into Balanced Life."

In 2014 I was accepted to continue my theological studies in Sacred Heart Seminary, and it was just last year that I heard that our group would be shifted to Bomana CTI the next year.

And so this year, 2015, I'm here in Bomana Holy Spirit Seminary continuing my theological studies in CTI. And I'm hoping that this will be the last year in my seminary formation. Furthermore, I'm happy to be here, and at least to know my countrymen studying like me towards the priesthood.