

Fidelis ANGAS, From admiration to discovering the desire, the call of God

My desire to become a priest started when I was a little boy. This is how this desire began. As a little boy, I used to attend holy mass every Sunday at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rabual, with my mom and dad. At mass, I usually admired the priest when he celebrated the Holy Eucharist. The things that I really admired were the liturgical dressings which were so colourful when the procession began and ended, the liturgical actions, and also the gentle attitudes and the way a priest usually talked and the respect of people towards the priest. These are my childhood admirations that (for me) made a priest a very special person, a humble man.

This admiration continued to grow in my schooling years. The very special moment that I could not forget in my all school years is the beginning of my education. At the age of seven (7), I was enrolled into St. Joseph Elementary School in the year 1991 in East New Britain Province. Just after two weeks of school my dad asked me, "What do you want to become in the future?" In response; I said, "I really want to be a priest." My dad then asked, "Why do you want to be a priest?" In response, I said, "Because the priests are good and humble persons, unlike rascals." I said this because my dad was a police officer who usually dealt with bad people, the criminals.

So after completing grade ten (10) I wrote an application letter to St. Peter Chanel Minor Seminary and was accepted. I continued my eleventh and twelve years there. After that I continued through to formation house and then to the major seminary where I am until today.

Today my understanding of becoming a priest has changed. The language now is no longer something I merely admire, but I desire to become a priest. And in the process towards the priesthood, I am discovering this desire that I have. Discovering the call of God within myself. I now would like to share my reflection about priesthood. Below is my reflection, entitled; "Priestly Vocation."

Priestly Vocation

Priestly vocation is "a call" and not a want.

It is not what you and I may think.

It is not a profession— where one wants and wish to become.

It is not only admiration and attraction— where one admires and is attracted to.

Nor, it is not an arranged vocation— like arranged marriage in some cultures.

It is not what others want and force you to be.

It is not a call of family interest or self external interest.

It is not a call from whatever force voices from outside oneself.

A priestly vocation is not any these.

Priestly vocation is not a want but "A call. "

A call from within oneself

The inner voices that is calling from within oneself

The gentle voices of God calling you to be.

This is where the calling is.

Be a priest of the priesthood of Christ.