James KOLIA, A Brief Vocation History

I was born in 25th November 1986 in a small village call Kandoka, Kaliai Catholic Parish, Kimbe Diocese, in the West New Britain Province of Papua New Guinea. I was born second out of seven siblings; three are girls and five boys. Both my parents are still alive; they are both subsistence farmers.

The thought of becoming a diocessan priest was coming to my mind when I was still a little boy in a stage of reasoning. I first entered school in 1995 and completed grade six in 2000. Then I was selected to go to Kaliai primary school to do grade seven and eight in 2001 and 2002. Along the way the thought of becoming a priest was lost in my mind during my early adolescence stage around thirteen to fifteen years old. And then I was selected to do grade nine and ten at Kimbe Secondary School located in a small town of Kimbe in 2004 and 2005. One reason that I lost this vision of becoming a priest was because I attended the government school where there is no proper thought of religious education.

However, I gained this vocation back in my mind because once a week a Catholic priest came to us Catholic students to teach us about religious instruction, so that is where the thought came strong to me again. Furthermore, it may also be because my mother prayed for me to become a priest. Anyway, I applied to St. Peter Channel Minor Seminary Ulapia. From there I did grades 11 and 12 in 2006 and 2007. Then, after completing grade l2 I applied again for a one year formation programme in Lannuzel, in the north Baining area Rabaul. After that I applied to Sacred Heart Inter-Diocesan Major Seminary Rapolo to do two years of philosophy and two years of religious studies. And now this year, 2015, I am doing Theology Two in the Catholic Theological Institute at Bomana Port Moresby.

Presently, I am still listening and discerning this call to make clear to me in my daily participation in the seminary programme. And lastly I believe and pray that one day I will become a priest in the future.