

John BALELE

I was born on the feast day of Saint John Bosco, which was on the 31st of January in 1985, so my mother called me John Bosco. My father's name is Joseph Balele and my mother's name is Anna Ruma. Both are from West New Britain Province, and both are still alive and are now living as subsistence farmers. I have one elder brother, two more who are younger than me and only one sister who was born after me. So we are five siblings in the family, and I am the second born.

The first time I gave serious thought into becoming a priest was when I did my grade seven at VunaBosco Agro Technical Secondary School. This was in 1998, and I was 13 years old. My inspiration, the Salesian priests, whom I saw as exceptional persons, particularly as intellectuals who had a certainty about their general outlook of life. The priests were my teachers, my guardians, and my priests for two years in 1998-1999, but my time with them was enough to convince me then, when I was just 13 going onto 14, that I wanted to be a priest. These priest are Fr. Roger Mirander, Fr. Carlos, Fr. Stephen Placente and Fr. Eduardo. What I saw in the priests was a very well rounded human being who seemed to know all the answers, and all his answers were logical and made sense to me. You see, I was a young boy who wanted to know all things, I believe that was the driving force of my life that time. So naturally I was interested in becoming a priest because they seemed to me the ones who knew everything.

So now I would like to present my Life through the years up to now.

1985 - Was born.

1991 - Did my kindergarten, Kimbe playschool.

1992-1997 - Did my primary schooling (grades 1-6),, Mosa primary school, Patanga primary school, Tiauru primary school, Bialla primary school and Uasilau primary school.

1998-1999 - Was at VunaBosco Agro Technical Secondary School (grades 7-8).

2000-2001 - Was at Bialla High School (grades 9-10).

2002-2003 - Was at Floskins Secondary (grades 11-12).

2004-2006 - Was at University of Papua New Guinea (but did not complete my bachelor programme. I was studying to be a philosophy and history major, I simply lost interest because the study did not really give the answers I sought in life).

2007 - At home with my parents (I applied for admission into Rapolo Major Seminary, through my diocesan bishop that time and now emeritus Bishop Alphones Chaupa).

2008-2010 - Was at Rapolo Major Seminary (Religious studies years 1-3).

2011 - Was at Lannuzel (spiritual year).

2012 - Was at Rapolo Major Seminary (Theological studies years 1).

2013 - Was doing my pastoral at Ulamona Parish.

2014 - Did my second year of theological studies here at Catholic Theological Institute.

Now 2015 I am continuing with my theological studies here at Catholic Theological Institute, residing and in formation here in Holy Spirit Seminary.

This is the short reflection of my life so far, my history for the last 30 years since I was born. When I think where I am now, I am grateful and I feel privileged because I have come to generally know who I am and my purpose. I will definitely say I am joyous and looking forward to the life as being the Lords' Channel of his peace and instrument of his love as his priest. Deo Gratias.