

I am Patrick Herman, a seminarian from Ais village, on the south coast of the Kandrian District, the Turuk Parish Kimbe in West New Britain. I came from the Kimbe Diocese headed by Archbishop Bill Fey, OFM. My father is a chief of the village that I had mentioned above. My mother is a wise woman! We were eight in the family. I am the first born in the family. After me were the other seven, four brothers and three sisters.

I'm so grateful to become a seminarian, because in the past, my grandfather was the person who paid the catechist, a Tolai man who carried a Bible there from Vunapope Catholic Mission Church in Rabaul in 1925. He paid the catechist with our shell money and took him home to Kandrian overnight from his canoe on the south coast. The establishment of church was on October 1936 at the place now named St. Thomas More Turuk Parish. He presented the church with our holy words saying this person and the Bible, are the important things that will help us to live a good life.

I began my primary education at Turuk when I entered grade one in 1994 and studied until 2004. I had grades eight, nine, and ten at Kandrian high school from 2005-2006, and attended Sacred Heart Lemakot School of Nursing. From 2007 to 2009 I went do grades eleven and twelve at the Faith Secondary High School in Kimbe. I was working out in the field to serve the sick patients from the remote Sub-health centres of the Pililo and Turuk Heath Centre in 2010-2011.

My hobbies are listening to music on the radio, watching TV news, doing readings, prayer, meditations that include silence and reflection, playing sports, attending Eucharistic celebrations (Mass), getting spiritual guidance, and sharing and discussing among other brothers and sisters.

Vocational formation began at Lannuzel (2012), and I continued with two years philosophical study at Rapolo Major Seminary (2013-2014) and a Spiritual year at St. Fidelis Cap Madang (2015) Because of the shortages of lectures at Rapolo Seminary, the bishops wanted me to come here in Port Moresby, Bomana, to further my studies in Catholic Theological Institute (CTI), and now, this year I am doing Religious Studies (RS3). I'm here at the diocesan college, Holy Spirit Seminary, in touch with the studies and programs (2016). I'm very happy to be with my seminarian brothers and our formators, the priests.