

I, Solomon Thomas, hail from Wanepap Parish in Diocese of Wabag, situated West of Enag, 300 kilometres away from Wabag town.

I completed my primary education at Kepelam Primary School from 1991-1996. After successful completion of 6 years of primary education, I was selected to Wabag Secondary School to proceed with secondary education. I did my secondary education in Wabag Secondary School from 1997-1999.

When I was in Grade 9, I wrote to Fr. Arnold, now Bishop of Wabga, was the vocation director of that time, to express my desire of studying in the seminary to be a priest in the Diocese of Wabag. I contacted Fr Arnold for three years.

At the end of year 2000 Bp Arnold invited me to sit for the entry exam of entering St. Fidelis Minor Seminary. I sat for the entry exam, and I was accepted to study in the Minor Seminary so I went to St. Fidelis Minor Seminary in 2001-2002. However, I decided to leave the Seminary program and joined the St. John of God Brothers. I was with the Brothers for two years, and I got severe malaria so in 2007 I left them and went back home.

While at home, I wrote again to Bishop expressing my interest to go back to the Seminary. At the end of 2007 Bishop accepted my application, and I was asked to help in the Diocesan Pastoral Centre for a year (2008). All of 2008 I worked in the Diocesan Pastoral Centre and also did some English studies. At the end of 2008, that's around October, I applied to Bishop for further studies at Good Shepherd Seminary in Banz. At the formation board of Wabag the diocese accepted my application and recommended me to study at Good Shepherd Seminary, and my recommendation from Bishop was accepted by the Good Shepherd Seminary admission board, and I was accepted to Good Shepherd Seminary.

At the beginning of February 2009 I enrolled at Good Shepherd Seminary under the Rectorship of Fr. Peter Dikos SVS. I successfully completed my two years of Religious Studies with Fr. Peter Dikos. In 2011 Fr. Clement Papa become the new Rector of Good Shepherd Seminary, so I completed my third year with Fr. Clement Papa in the 2011.

In the year 2012 Bishop placed me at Sangurap Cathedral Parish, and I did my pastoral with Fr. Anthony Shomhorst SVD. The task was designed for a year, so I completed it at the end beginning of January 2013. During the year of pastoral I have learned a lot from my pastoral coordinator, from the parish pastoral workers, and the Christians. I have enjoyed my pastoral year with great enthusiasm.

At the end of February 2013 Bishop sent me to go for the Spiritual at St. Fidelis Minor Seminary. This program of Spiritual was design for the whole year of 2013. I journeyed my spiritual year with Fr. Serial OFM Cap for that year. I have successfully completed the Spiritual year at the end of November 2013.

In the year 2014 I was asked by Bishop Arnold to pursue my theological studies here at Holy Spirit Seminary. Fr. Jacek CM enrolled me at Catholic Theological Institute to study theology for 3 years. This year 2016 I am completing my Theology Studies under the direction of Holy Spirit Seminary Rector Fr. Jacek CM.

This my vocation story and my steps of formation which I have undertaken during my formation years. Without any reservation and hesitation I am looking forward to my diaconate and a year or two after my diaconate pastoral I will be ordained a priest in the Diocese of Wabag.

I am personally thanking those organisations who have supported me during the course of my seminary formation and studies. What you have spent on my formation and my studies is not a waste but you have invested in a great help for the Diocese of Wabag and for the Universal Church. Last I thank the Bishop of Wabag, Most Rev. Arnold Orowae DD for his spiritual and financial support. I have come this far and I am grateful to the Diocese of Wabag.

May God bless all of you are reading my piece of vocation, and I ask you to continue to support us in prayer and other needs in our formation program. I wish you all well, and pray that God will continue to help you what you do in your life and in your ministry.