

Thaddeus B'Gaiva

It was in the year 1996 when I was doing my grade seven at the primary school. There the idea to become a priest was instilled in me after the Divine Word Missionaries (SVD) had done their vocation campaign. I started contacting SVD's as I continued on to grade ten.

However, I lost interest in them and joined the Marist Brothers of the Schools. I began my formation with the Marist Brothers in 2002 as postulant. I was privileged to be sent over to Bougainville to have a fair experience about the Brothers' apostolic work.

Thereon, at Bougainville I got involved in catechizing and working with students. Basically it was all about catechizing young people in their personal faith development. Indeed, it was a faith nourishing exercise to me. Then in 2006 to 2007, I was in Fiji to do my Novitiate formation. It took me a couple of years in the Pacific. It was a remarkable experience also.

Despite all those interesting experiences, I felt that that was not what the Lord wanted me to be. I withdrew from the Brothers formation and went home. To make a long vocation story short, I joined the Catholic Diocese of Alotau in 2010. And in 2014 I was enrolled at Holy Spirit Seminary, and at the same time I was doing my third year in philosophy and religious studies.

Having, reflected back on vocational journey in faith, I have been blessed in dedicating my time to work with many young people. I cherished all that the good Lord had done in my life. To share the joy of the gospel, there were many young people whom I helped encounter Christ, and who are also studying to become priest.

An encouragement to any of you, young people reading this story, you can serve God.

"Listen! To Jesus, he needs you to be his disciple and proclaim God's kingdom. Don't fret!"

As to conclude my brief vocational story I would say,

"Life is a gift from God and whatever good things we do in Jesus name is our gift back to God. The Lord continues to call; those who heed him He sets apart; He leads them into the desert, and there He speaks to their hearts. Imitation of Christ is the grace of our baptismal consecration which makes possible our coming to our fullness in the Trinity's love. This sharing in the mystery of Jesus Christ leads us on towards the perfection of our being in Christ himself, which makes our whole life a love-worship of God."

Thank you for your continuous support of prayers and help in my seminary studies.

May the Risen Lord himself bless you abundantly.