

Wilbert APUNU

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Hi, my name is Wilbert Apunu, and I am doing R.S.3 studies here at Bomana Theological Institute this year (2015). Bomana institute is one of the major seminaries in Papua New Guinea. It is located in the outside of Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea. As for myself I came from the Autonomous Region of Bougainville in the Diocese of Bougainville. My province is located in the eastern part of the main island of Papua New Guinea. It is one of the most beautiful island provinces in Papua New Guinea. Bougainville is the greenest island province in Papua New Guinea - mountainous, with big rivers, a rain forest, three dormant volcanoes, and crystal clear salt waters. It is surrounded by many beautiful smaller islands, and the people are friendly like on the other Pacific Island countries.

As for myself I am the fourth born in my family of two boys and two girls. Therefore, as a young man I was aspiring to become a diocesan priest, because I felt that I was called to the vocation of priesthood ministry to serve Jesus Christ and his Church here on earth, both in ministering and pastoral aspects. The vocation of the priesthood is interesting and inspiring because it is totally different from other vocations: it is given to man by God Himself. The interesting part is that when a man becomes a priest, he is like another Christ, spreading the word of the Lord to the people and feeding the people with the Eucharist, the body and blood of Christ for spiritual strengthening and nourishment that is given and received in the celebration of the liturgy in the mass.

Therefore in 1997 I started my primary school year from grade one and completed grade eight at 2004. In my examination I did well in grade eight, so I was selected to do grade nine at a school administrated by the Marist teaching brothers. This was back in my province, and this was the time my interest in the vocation of the priesthood began. One of the vocation directors give us some talks about the priesthood vocation, and said if we wanted to apply for this vocation we could come and see him. We had to do our grade ten exam in order to be accepted to do grade eleven and twelve, and then we would go for the start of the formation year of the priesthood vocation. So I did my grade exam well, and I was accepted to do grade eleven and twelve at a minor seminary in the years 2007 to 2008 at St Peter Chanel Ulapia.

Then in 2007 to 2008 I completed my grades eleven and twelve at St Peter Chanel Ulapia. After completing my secondary years there, I still had the interest in the vocation of the priesthood, so I wrote and applied to our vocation director that I was interested and wanted to continue to pursue my studies to become a priest. So after a few weeks a letter was given to our parish priest, and then it was given to me by him. This was after one of the Sunday's Mass celebrations. When I open the letter I read it, the letter indicated that I had been accepted to go for my formation year to begin my vocation in the priesthood. Then in 2009 I went to begin the priesthood formation year in my diocese. After this I stayed at home for two years. Then in 2012 I went to Sacred Heart Inter-Diocesan Major Seminary and did my two years of philosophy studies. Then after completing my two years of formation in the philosophy studies, I went for my spiritual year formation in Madang at St. Fidelis for a year. Therefore, after completing my spiritual year in 2014, I feel that I have learned a lot about the different ways of meditations and prayers: they are of great help in my spiritual life and in the vocation of the priesthood, and after a few years they will enable me as a young priest in my future vocation and ministry in my diocese and nation, in the Church, and in all in the world.

Finally, to conclude on my brief formation life journey, I would say that the journey is sometimes challenging, because there ups and downs one will sometimes be confronted with, but with the Lord everything is possible if one has a deep love and relation with Christ and a devotion to Mother Mary, the Mother of God.