

My name is Gregory Fasokniver from the diocese of Kavieng and Lorengau. I am very pleased to share with you my vocation story.

I was born on the 5th of January 1982 in East New Britain Province. I am now 35 years of age and the eldest in our family with four brothers and two sisters; two passed away. I have a mixed parentage; my father is from New Ireland Province, and mother is from East New Britain Province. They were former primary school teachers and while teaching for some years, they decided to quit and settle down with the children. Hence, we are now living in East New Britain Province particularly in the Duke of York Islands living a simple life at home.

Now, it was my own decision to come to the seminary to study and to become a priest. Actually during my earliest school days, I never thought about the priesthood life. I had other dreams in mind which I was thinking about. One of the dreams I had in mind was to become a teacher after completing grade ten. Thus, while doing my final year grade ten in St. Mary's Vuvu, Vunakanau, I applied for teachers college, and I was accepted to attend OLSH, Kabaleo Teachers College the following year. However since some of my younger brothers were also in school at that time, my parents were not able to meet the cost of my school fees. With that I understood the situation and so decided to stay for a while at home. I spent five years at home with my family with no hope of going back to school.

During the course of the five years that I spent at home, I was involved in many of the spiritual and social activities that normally take place in our parish which motivated me not to miss especially the spiritual activities. By taking part in the spiritual activities I started to develop a sense of loving the Lord and so made a commitment not to miss Sunday masses even if there was no priest. I was also motivated when seeing priests celebrating masses on Sundays.

As time went on I felt like going back to school and without informing my parents, I silently applied again for OLSH, Kabaleo Teachers College and Chanel College, Ulapia Minor Seminary and so I received two offers. I was accepted by both colleges; however, I had to make a right decision as to which college I had to attend. Hence, I prayed about it and decided that I would attend the minor seminary. With the help of my bishop, the vocation director, and my parents, I attended the minor seminary in 2006 and managed to complete my studies. After the minor seminary I undergo two years formation at our own formation center in Kavieng Diocese and then the following year I attended the Sacred Heart Inter-diocesan Major Seminary, Rapolo in Rabaul and continued my theological studies in the Catholic Theological Institute in Port Moresby living at the Holy Spirit Seminary under the formation of the Vincentian Fathers.