

## Darius SAKAIL, My Vocation Story

My vocation began when I was still a child. When I was still a small boy and going to mass with my parents during Christmas and Easter celebrations, I was really inspired when the priest lifted up the bread and chalice and said prayers during the consecration. It was always in my mind. And many times when my elder brother went out with the parish priest for pastoral work, I used to cry after them. Sometimes if they did pastoral work back in the village, they used to take me to go with them, but if they were going out to faraway places, they would tell me to stay back. I always accepted what they told me.

I have two brothers and two sisters in my family and out of these five, two of them joined the Legion of Mary. My father and mother are both subsistence farmers. My parents were really struggling to pay for the school fees of my elder brothers and sisters, leaving me behind. My father was one of the leaders in the village, but he is a humble person and always giving us counseling about good moral conducts. My elder brothers and sisters followed what he taught but me, because I'm a last born in the family, they always left me behind because of my attitude, and they described me as (nakolman), which means „little old man” because I was too big headed and they always hated me. They overlooked my rights without considering the quality that I have. Sometimes they treated me very badly by giving me punishments which made my mother really upset. One of the most tragic thing that have happened to me, something done by one of my cousin brothers, really hurt my parents. He told me to climb up a tree. Then he started shooting at me with the spears made of sticks from the bush. None of these spears reached me so he ordered me to come down. This was one of things that still are in my memory which I cannot forget. This thing that had happened to me, however, doesn't stop me from what am I doing.

Every time when we went for Sunday service, I liked sitting in front. One Sunday after a priestless service, the catechist taught us about the ten commandments and then said, “Jesus said, whoever wants to be my friend, must listen to his/her parents or else he/she would not be my friend.” But for me every time when he asked questions on the ten commandments or other things regarding faith I was always the first person to gave him the answers no matter if they were correct or wrong. My friends sometimes laughed or made fun of me but I never minded. That's why, when the catechist told us about what Jesus said, for me it was like normal to me, because I was always revealing to my friends or parents about the things that I did. During that time, I started to change but I still held onto some negative things.

Then in 1998, I went to school and I was asked to do my grade one (1) but I ignored the directions and went to did grade two (2). When it came to tests my classmates always laughed and criticized me because I was always the last person to finish. At the end of the year, my result was not very good, but I came first in the Religious instructions (RI). Then in grade three (3), I started to pick up, surpassing my classmates in other subjects, but in RI no one surpassed me until I completed my grade six (6) up to grade eight (8) in the primary school. This time I started including myself in some the church activities until I completed my grade ten (10) in 2007. In 2006 I was expelled due to some problems and sent home. At home I was appointed as youth secretary, and in 2007 I went back to school and graduated.

In 2007 when I went back to school, I applied for St. Peter Chanel minor seminary in Ulapia in Rabaul in East New Britain Province, and they accepted me, so in 2008 I did my grade eleven (11) and twelve (12) in 2009 at the minor seminary, graduated, and continued for the formation program in the formation house Lanuzel in 2010. I did my first and second year of philosophy in Sacred Heart Inter-Diocesan Major Seminary in Rapolo from 2011-2012, and in 2013, I did my spiritual formation in Putput in the East coast of New Britain Island and finally in 2014—due to some changes—I was transferred to Holy Spirit Seminary for an advanced diploma in Religious studies in Catholic theological institute Bomana in Port Moresby. Now in 2015, it is my first year of theology study. However on my way I came across temptations and difficulties in my life, but it doesn't make me give up. Most times I faced accusations coming from different people in many places that I went through, but I always remember that the journey that I'm trying to follow is not easy. Many challenges have come my way which tried to pull me down, but I did not give in. What I used to do is to go along with them and accept them, and then offer them in my prayer to ask if this was truly my call.

In this way, I would be released, so that some of those things have even strengthened me in my vocation from the beginning to this time.

With my prayer life, in the seminary and at home sometimes when I'm busy I will not go to pray. But otherwise my prayer life was not a problem. It was part of me now for eight years; as I'm in the seminary, prayer has been a priority for me, especially the rosary. I like praying the rosary every day because it was a simple prayer but more powerful, and this was the prayer that I used every day in my life.

As I came this far my family has been very supportive and helpful to me. Those who had been my enemies when I was still a small boy have become my great benefactors, supporting me in all my needs one way or the other.