

Greg Bai - A CALL WITHIN MANY CALLS

It is my honour and pleasure to share the most important experience of my vocation. It is a desire within many desires. I am really grateful indeed when asked to share the moments I first made my decision to follow this mysterious voice that kept calling me despite many other calls in my life. Contemplating and reflecting upon this mysterious calling is something that remains veiled, and I cannot fully understand it with my human reasoning. It is a call within many calls and dreams in my personal life, and a call that can only be fully understood by God who is the sole master and divine planner. For me in the beginning it was not so much clear because I was fixated on my own personal interests in life, but from nowhere came a call deep within my being and a strong desire that really changed everything.

I was born in a poor struggling family, and both my parents are hardworking people because of the high demands of livelihood in the society. I have two brothers and two sisters who also have their personal dreams in life, and all of us worked very hard to achieve our dreams so that someday we could help the family. We are five in the family and I am the fifth in a family of five children. In fact I never dreamt of becoming a seminarian or studying in the seminary as a clerical student. It was a call within many calls and dreams I had in life. My future was already planned by my parents, and throughout my studies in secondary school, I was really fixated on my dream, but God in His own divine plan changed everything I dreamt about in life, and completely turned me around to His own will and plan. My parents were very devoted people and with their intimate relationship with God,. They helped me realize that God still has His last say on every person's life.

For myself, I wanted to become a medical worker so that I could become the healing hand of God by helping those in the hospitals. But somehow God intervened in my dream and gave me a vocation which is beyond our human reasoning, and it is a treasure that I kept deep within my heart. Every day I kept thinking about the wonderful deeds of God and His interest to intervene in my personal life to share the divine mysteries of existence. He gave me this precious treasure to be his voice and hands to those who in need. I also appreciate my parents, especially my mother, whose voice is still echoing in my ears, telling me to create a moment with God and allow Him to speak to me when I was confused during the transitional period. That was after I completed my secondary studies and caught up with a choice whether to proceed to other tertiary schools or to enter the seminary. It was really painful and stressful because for me, letting go in that transitional period was a very hard choice to make, and it took me months to appreciate the new chapter that I was taking, but despite all my human weakness, God in His mighty arms strengthens me and helps me to transcend these difficult moments of life.