

I, Seminarian John Bosco Mangurei, was born on the 22nd of August 1984 to Catechist William Mangurei and Rose Agimi. I am the sixth born of the 11 children in the family. My family consists of 7 brothers and 4 sisters. When I was born and raised up as a child, a very serious sickness affected me even to the point of death. But, I lived through care from my parents, who tirelessly looked and searched for ways to relieve me from that serious sickness. Because of the love and care from our Heavenly Father that he lavished upon my parents, that is why I am alive today and have come this far. So they brought me up until I had reached the stage of sending me to school. I'm from Nut village, an atoll island situated northwest of West New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea. I started my education in the year 1994 as grade one (1) and completed year ten in 2004. While doing my year ten, I wrote an application letter applying for a space in grade 11 at St. Peter Chanel Minor Seminary (Ulapia) in Rabaul, East New Britain Province. That was on the month of June, the same year 2004. However, the reply to the letter was that my application was unacceptable due to the late submission of that application. But here was some encouragement from the selection committee, especially Archbishop Carl Hesse MSC.

I was told to pray for that desire and then to apply again in the following year and was told the requirements for attending such institution. So with all those encouragements, I went home to the parish where my father was working at, with the parish priest. There it took me three (3) solid years from 2005, 2006 to 2007 of just helping the parish priest and my father for the parish work. While staying in the parish, a visiting priest came and spent a night with us. At that time he called me up and was asking about my interest and checking my educational background. After that night, he left us with what I have given to him, something I had done without the telling my parents. That was on June. 2007 after two and a half years.

Now, in 2008 and 2009 I was accepted to do grade 11 and 12 at St. Peter Chanel Minor Seminary as I had been desiring for. During that time, the desire within me to become a priest grew very strong. According to the process of studying for priesthood, after Minor Seminary those who desire to become priest will be sent to Formation houses depending on their marks. Unfortunately, I did not make it because of my English marks. Again, without any hesitation I went straight to my Diocese in 2010 and took up some studies in English at Kimbe University Open Campus and completed them in 2011. I reapplied to formation house to be part of the program in 2012 through our vocation director. Finally, the application was approved by the selection committees, so I was sent to Lannuzel Formation house in north Baining, East New Britain Province. After spending 2012 in the formation house, I was sent up to Sacred Heart Inter-Diocesan Major Seminary to do my religious studies (philosophy) in 2013 and 2014. Then in 2015, my Bishop, Bill Fey OFM Cap, sent me and my other brother seminarians to St. Fidelis Seminary Carp, in Madang for a spiritual year. At the end of the spiritual year, we went home for our summer holidays. As usual, after the spiritual year seminarians will receive their cassock, and so it happened to me and my brothers. Our reception of cassocks was on Wednesday the 27th of February 2016 at 5pm in the afternoon when they were given by our Bishop. Finally, I was sent again to another seminary to continue my religious studies, and a third year in philosophy. The seminary, known as Catholic Theological Institute, is in Port Moresby (Bomana), a city of Papua New Guinea. Right now I'm still discovering and journeying, and I have three (3) more academic years to complete my seminary studies.

Life in the seminary is very special and unique with all its joys, hardships, and challenges which I am encountering. It is a kind of painful experience that would always strengthen me to rise up and continue on as a true seminarian journeying towards that priesthood of Jesus Christ. All in all, it is through the divine providence from God that I have come this far and therefore, I would like to thank God, my parents, priests, and those who carry me through this long journey of faith.