

J. TAMAI'S BRIEF HISTORY

It is common sense for an individual person to at least let his or her benefactors, apart from family members, briefly know his or her historical background. Why is it important to let the non-biological benefactors know my personal history? In doing so, they may continue in assisting until the goal of a vocation or a career is achieved. Not only that but, sometimes they may be at peace, knowing that person and the useful ways that the help given by them has been useful. Therefore in this brief history I will try to make known some of my background story by introducing myself and how I came to Major Seminary.

Firstly my name is Joseph TAMAI. I am a diocesan seminarian who came from KIMBE DIOCESE, West New Britain Province (Papua New Guinea). In my family we have eight (8) members, four males and four females. Unfortunately, in 2012 the last born female died, leaving two of her children with their father. The second to the last who is also female became nun, and I was the third from the last in the family. Both of our parents died. All members of the family got married and some have children with good jobs and some are still in high schools.

Secondly my educational background. I was a grade ten (10) leaver who was not qualified to go to the secondary schools or Minor Seminary. The desire to be educated and achieve something good did not end in completing my grade ten certificate. My aim in the high school was to continue with grade eleven and twelve in Minor Seminary. But as mentioned above, it did not eventuate. I stayed outside for some years in the community, involving myself with the Legion of Mary prayer group and the youth. The intention of praying and joining the youth was to help me attain my dream of Minor Seminary in some way. When being with the Legion of Mary I prayed so much to Mother Mary and God the Trinity for the help in achieving that education.

One remarkable moment that I cannot forget was that, one night alone in my room I prayed and cried for education (Minor/Major Seminary). And again this is an experience I never forget; when praying for help, at the same time I wrote to various vocation directors if they could only consider my interest. The vocation director responded positively, but due to low qualifications I was not accepted into Minor Seminary. Both parents died so I was looked after by my elder sisters. I also expressed my interest in education within the family, encouraging the little ones and helping them do their homework. The aim in doing this was to help the elder ones to be selected to secondary schools. When they all attended secondary school, I thought of leaving them and tried again to look for a priest who knew me and could help me.

Finally from there I had in mind the late Bishop Alphonse Chaupa who was taking care of the new diocese of Kimbe. That was in 2006. He would be the right person because he is my wantok (same language) and he knew me, I thought. So a few days later I left for Kimbe. From there I stayed for a year and made arrangements with the bishop for my enrollment to Minor Seminary. I told him my interests for Minor Seminary and the reasons. So without delay he responded positively, recommending me, and then I was accepted to St. Peter Chanel Minor Seminary in Rabaul, East New Britain Province (PNG).

I was very sorry when informed about Bishop A. Chaupa death. I had hoped he would be still alive so he could witness my ordination, but unexpectedly he was dead. I thank him and thank God for him. May he rest in peace with God. It was through him that I made it to Minor Seminary which was the beginning of Major Seminary where I am now. THANK YOU AND THANK YOU ALL. GOD BLESS.