

Reflect My Vocation: By Peter Kamboi (TH2)

Generally vocation means a strong feeling of being destined or called to undertake a specific type of work, especially a sense of being chosen by God for religious work or a religious life. However, as I reflected back to an origin of my vocation, I see that God called me to this very special life through my parents. I don't chose my religion, language, name, and the journey of faith that I'm journeying now, but it was chosen or given by my Catholic devoted parents. All these happened to me after I have left my mother's womb and frighteningly came into this world. More so I discovered that God spoke to me through my nurture by my poor parents.

As a saying goes, it is easier to get an actor to be a cowboy than to get a cowboy to be an actor. So my father really wanted one of his brothers to become a priest, but none was made it. So when my mother gave birth to me, my father said to himself, "O thanks God for giving me this little boy. I now offer him to you." After few days there came an old priest from Germany with a small beautiful crucifix to the maternity ward and gave it to me. He said to my parents, this crucifix I gave to this baby is his cross and he will become like me so you both must look after him very well.

A few years later when I was at about five years old, my Father took that crucifix and sold it to the Philippines who came to get timbers by log ship. As a result he was attacked by a huge shark one day when they went out for fishing. While he was in the moment of pain, he realized that he made a mistake by selling the crucifix away. After that moment he treasured everything into his troubled heart till when I was accepted to go and study at Seminary. Therefore through my poor parent I responded positively to the call of God and happily ventured this journey of faith up until now. They are not like other parents to pass all their possessions to their first born child. They really wanted me to become a priest because they were told by that old priest that I will be man of God if I grow up.

God's calling is great when I greatly pursued it. From that moment till now I strongly believed that God loves so much: that is why He always blessed, taught and guided me in this very call. I say so because I was put out of the seminary program for a couple of years and then joined the program again. Therefore a very large part of my life is devoted to the training of the servant of God and also my journey of faith. In so far as it is, by definition, the training of a journey of faith, it includes, of course, the instilling of that kind of confidence and happiness which will enable this special call God to guide, supervise, and direct my vocation.

My suspension really made a big change in my life as a seminarian journeying to this priesthood. When I was still in the seminary everything was possible and available to me. But when I was kicked out of the seminary, everything really escaped from me. However I tried my best to live a life of the people in the village, but I had no proper place to live because they really hated me. I was hopeless and neglected by everyone in my village and my relatives in other villages nearby due to this suspension. But I saw this as a challenge to me, and therefore it really boosted me up, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to take up my cross and continue my journey. So now I am so happy because God always loved me and cared for me when I was neglected by my relatives. I pray that the Almighty God will always be with me and care for me in this journey of life. More so, I am really happy by seeing my brothers again back in the Seminary and hope I will journey with them.