

Family Back Ground

I am Albert Kente, a second born child in a family. I have only one brother who is the first born and a sister who is the last. I come from a struggling, suffering, and lonely family where a father died leaving us alone with our mother. Our father died when I was still a child. I did not go to school yet. In spite of this we are happy with our mother that she has brought us up to the adulthood. Both my brother and sister are married. At this time my brother has five children, and my sister has only one child who is a girl.

My Call

When I was in the high school I used to write to Lemakot (CHW), to the Marish Congregation and to Gaulim Teachers College. They usually replied to my letters, and I had attached to them for years while in the high school. However, just a month before our Gr.10 Examinations, Fr. Joe Galia (Diocesan) arrived and gave the Vocation Talk to us the Gr.10 students of Palmalmal High School. His words inspired me so much, so I changed my mind and I decided to fill up the form to St.Peter Chanel, Ulapia. I attached to the form my letter of interest and gave it to Fr. Joe. Sometime latter I received the acceptance letter. Then at the beginning of the Year 2000, I went to Ulapia. But then Fr. Richard Kennedy, who was the Rector at that time, sent me home for the following reasons:

1. I had a Pass in the subject of English
2. I had no School Fees
3. I did not know what is MSC & what is Diocesan (He saw me confused)

So I went and got employment with Hargy Oil Palm Company in West New Britain Province. I worked for the company for six (6) years. During this time I also attached to Fr. Anton Kuman; I used to go around with him on his pastoral activities especially on the weekends. Also I was doing my CODE at Kimbe especially for the English Subject. In 2006 I went back to Nutuve and at the same time Fr. Martin Potkau was sent to stay for a while surveying the parish. Again I attached to him and through him I went to Ulapia for the second time and this time I continued until 2013. I was withdrawn from Sacred Heart Seminary, Rapolo for medical reasons, and I stayed out of the seminary for five (5) years until this year 2018, when I am here studying at Holy Spirit Seminary Bomana.

How I have Faith in Christ

My faith was inherited from my grandmothers, especially the mother of my mother. She was one of the committed faithful during the time of the missionaries who first settled at the Nutuve Main Station. She learned a lot of Tok Pigin and prayers from them. My grandmother usually attended the Mass Services with all her children. They used to walk for a long distance from Lakiri to Nutuve regardless of mountains and rough roads. My grandmother was a prayerful person, and she usually encouraged her children to go for Mass Services. She was killed by the sorcerer on her way after the Mass Service. Her first born son became a catechist. From her the Christian faith was passed on to her children and from them to us. This is how my family has this faith in Jesus Christ. My mother used to tell me about all these things regarding the first missionaries who stayed in our area, and how she and her brothers with their mother have this faith.

We are living in a community where everyone has this faith in Christ, and the majority are Catholic. These strengthen the faith in my family, and for me personally I always partake with others in the community. Praying and preparing for the Sunday Liturgy and feast days is often well organized by everyone in the community.

I personally adapted to the culture of praying since I was a kid. My mother used to teach me how to pray the Lord's Prayer and Hail Mary. She taught me first the sign of the cross, how to bow, genuflect and how to kneel down. Because of the faith in Christ I used to pray every day in my life. So when I entered the seminary, I learnt many other prayers and many other things regarding the faith. That is how I am living this faith in Christ and I will not lose it as it becomes part of my life. Thank You