

VOCATION STORY Cornelius Gaga

Actually, the vocation to the priesthood was not what I aimed to pursue and become in the future. My initial goal which I desired very much when I was doing my primary education was to become a doctor. However, the experience of that desire which had pushed me through in my primary and secondary level of education gradually faded away when I was in Kerevat National High School doing my grade 11 and 12.

During those years the school was in complete chaos, and there appears to be a great tolerance of immoral practices, particularly of cult which was at that time at its highest peak. Many of us unconsciously fell prey to cult practices and became victims.

Those in authority were no longer active to enforce school rules in order to safeguard and foster our education. Consequently, we were all affected and led astray by individualism, hedonism and minimalism.

It was like living in the village where there is no programme to attend and students do whatever they like. As a result, education for many of us, somehow meant nothing and ceased to be our primary concern and priority. At the end, many of us failed our grade 12 exams.

I can still remember that I was never in remorse over my failures or even over missing the opportunities in my education as I had in the past when I used to treasure and take care of my education. However, it was two years later that I became conscious of the fact that I was a failure, that I had ruined my education and life. It was really a painful experience for me which for the past few years I often have difficulties in accepting and also hate recalling, especially the immoral life that I have once lived.

I wanted to attend some form of education again in order to upgrade my grade 12 marks but I was ashamed to ask my parents for assistance knowing that they are just subsistent farmers. There was no hope of continuing my education any more, and so I decided to take the responsibility of looking after my parents at home.

However I was fortunate that my uncle came to my assistance giving me the chance to upgrade my marks, and so today I really appreciate him for his generosity.

As it is, my goal of becoming a doctor was never fulfilled, but instead I have taken the road to become a priest (doctor of souls). It took me five years after completing my grade 12 in 2003 to enter seminary formation.

I applied in 2008 to be admitted as a diocesan candidate and was accepted to do my spiritual formation in 2009 and then entered seminary studies in 2010. I am currently doing my fifth year. After all these years I have come to accept the past, and I am looking forward to completing my studies and becoming a priest.

To conclude, we can not escape the plan and call of God. God's call finds those who are chosen to become priests in many various ways. He reveals his call generally in his creation, but more specifically through human experience and circumstances or through a natural phenomenon or even through certain people. He does so at the right time when one is in a right disposition to hear, feel, and perceive the call.