

## DICKSON KEWES, ARCHDIOCESE OF RABAUL.

If God wants a priest, He calls no matter in what stage, background, and life style a man is. The invitation to the priesthood is a mystery, because a man can refuse it or accept the call. As the saying goes, many are called, but few are chosen. The priesthood is a special call from God to the individual man. For that reason the formation of the young man depends entirely on the four dimensions of formation in the seminary.

In 1991, September 13 I was born at Kandrian Health Centre and was baptised with the name Dickson Maximillan. My father's name is Francis Kewes, and my mother's name is Agnes Siling, and both are still alive. I'm the fourth of the ten siblings with six girls and three boys. I was nine years old when my parents and my three elder sisters left West New Britain Province and went to East New Britain, where I began my education.

I went to school in the year 2000, doing grade one at St. Henry Primary School at the age of twelve. When I was doing my fourth grade, I had a dream of becoming a teacher. So I completed my primary level in year 2007 and was selected to go to St. Mary's secondary school. For the four years I was in the secondary school from level nine to twelve, I felt sometimes that I had the desire of becoming a priest, through the influence of the Christian Brother who run the institution. However, I always ignored that invitation, because I was pretty influenced by my peer friends, until I completed the level of secondary school. There was no offer for me to go to a college, so I decided to work and saved money and self-sponsored to a college. For that I started worked with a company, Spirit of Rabaul as a delivery man during the break. The next academic year begin and I saw that I had not enough finances for school fees, so I remained working for the whole year 2012. The following year I sought a job at another company, which was Colgate-Palmolive, and I worked as a merchandiser for nine months and around late September, 2013, I left the job and followed a Youth Ministry called Divine Mercy.

That Youth ministry was based in Kuragaga Parish, Rabaul, and consisted of young men and women. It happened on a evening Wednesday when I attended "family mass" that I was curious to see some young men teaching the children how to recite the rosary after the Eucharist celebration. I admired the way those young men prayed with the children, so I decided to pay a visit to them the next evening after work. My visit was welcomed, and the young men with their leader were giving a seminar on "What is a prayer?" I just sat and listened. When we ended I felt like staying with them, so I did asked their leader if I could stay with them for a night and he accepted my request. By where I spent that moment during that night I felt the strong desire quit my job and become a member of the group. I kept the idea within for three weeks. I observed the way that youth ministry lived - by concrete living where prayer was the first priority. The next thing I did was to ask the leader directly if I could become one of the youth ministry, and he accepted me. We used to go around the parishes through the request of the Parish Priest, because we would do family visits, helping the elderly, the sick, and praying with them.

When I went to parishes and met some priests, I felt the invitation from God to be the servant, so I sought guidance and direction on how to enter the seminary from those priests I met, and they helped me to write my interest letter to the vocation director. After some weeks I received the acceptance letter and an application form to fill. I submitted the application at end of 2014, September. In November I left the youth ministry and stayed with my family for a month because the next year I should enter the Sacred Heart Seminary, Rapolo. There in the seminary in 2015 I found myself challenged with the formations, but step by step I tuned in with the program of the seminary. Therefore, I am now still going through formation and studies to become a witness of Jesus Christ to the people of God.