

Edward Marita – Rabaul

PERSONAL VOCATION STORY

Priests, seminarians or religious brothers and sisters have their own vocation history to tell. Here I am very happy to share with you my vocation history. One of the most influential factors that motivated me to grow interest in priesthood was one of the German Priests.

He was the one who gave me first Holy Communion when I was in grade four (4) in 1997. He was my parish priest. Every time I went to the parish, he usually played and made fun of me. Sometimes he gave me 'lollies and ice block to make me feel happy. So then I had deep relationship with him. However, in 1999 because of a lung problem he thought of retiring from the parish and went back to Germany and then just before the beginning of the year 2000 the parish received the news that Fr was dead. Among the countless number of people weeping and wailing over our late parish priest I wept bitterly. While crying I recalled all his heart-touching words and actions. One thing that I can still remember about him was his heart-touching homilies and his Christ-like personality.

Some days later after the death I went to attend Sunday service in the parish. It was a communion service led by the parish catechist. The real taste of worshipping God during Sundays with late parish priest used to be more outstanding but the communion service turned out to be very weak worship. From there I realized and felt the ultimate importance of the Holy Mass Fr used to preside. With tears I thought to myself: "If a local man like him can commit his life totally to God who is supreme above everything, then why not I give myself to God in the priesthood life?" From that moment onwards that interest of becoming a priest grew strong in me, and also I trusted in God that He might call me to the priestly life.

Lord Almighty God has his own ways and plans to call man to be a priest, religious brother or a sister. Therefore I prayed with tears to God saying, "Lord call me to become priest so that my life can be lived the service of others for the glory of your Kingdom." I felt God's response to my prayer within myself that I had burning desire to become a priest. My primary aim to become priest was to give myself totally to God. Secondly, Jesus suffered and died to serve the world. Thus, I want to give my life to God in the service of others for the Kingdom of God. However, I was too young by that time to get to know how to enter the seminary program and from whom to get information about vocation in priesthood.

In 2003, while doing grade nine (9) at St Mary's High School, I had a chance to talk to a priest. I asked him about how to enter seminary to become priest. He provided me information I could need. With his information I immediately wrote to the vocation director. His reply to my letter was very interesting and satisfying. Again I wrote a couple of letters expressing my interest in the priesthood. I was told then to complete grade twelve (12). Besides, he advised me to study hard and pray regularly. It was interesting to hear advice on praying because praying many times was not my first time.

In the beginning of 2004 I received an acceptance letter from Chanel Minor Seminary to continue my studies in grade 11 and 12 and by the end of 2005 I graduated at Channel Minor Seminary. However, instead of continuing to the major seminary I was held back by my mother just because I was the smallest among the brothers, so I stayed back at home helping our parish priest with pastoral activities. By the middle of 2009 with the help of the parish priest I reapplied back to the vocation director and in the beginning of 2010 I eventually made it to the Formation house at Lannuzel for nine solid months, and in 2011 I continued with my religious studies at the Sacred Heart Inter Diocesan Seminary Rapolo and 2014 they shifted all of us here to Holy Spirit Seminary.