

Godwill KOLU

Journeying along with our formatters or priests, the Rector of the Holy Spirit Seminary, Fr. Jacek, and brother seminarians in this mysterious pathway in the years of our formation and discernment towards the priestly calling is me, Seminarian Godwill Kolu from the Archdiocese of Rabaul, East New Britain, Papua New Guinea.

I would like to share with you in this crucial time a few of my experiences on how I come to know God's calling in my life.

I first of all would like to begin by saying that everything comes from the One and must return to that One. Who is He? The One above; He is God. Anyway, in life people have their own experiences in coming to know God and their purposes or reasons for particular goals they are interested in, etc. Those who wish to consecrate their lives and join the religious life may have had the purpose, the will, and the desire from within themselves in trying to make sense and discern the call towards priestly life and others.

Reflecting back on my own life, the desire for me to the priestly life started when I was in grade two. That was back in 1998, when a Franciscan priest who is my uncle came to our school (St. Michael Sampun) during one of his Christmas holidays and gave us a talk about the importance of our education, especially our studies. He gave us some advice and encouragement, and also he shared with us some of his experiences as a priest. He even told us about one of his significant experiences and that is when he went to the Holy Land. His words were really striking to me at that time.

However, during my education from grades three up to grade twelve, the desire to become a priest disappeared in me. After my grade six I was selected to Palmalmal Provincial High School. Then after completing the four years in high school, I had no chance to further my studies, so I took a year out and just stayed at home. By experiencing life with different people, different students, and coming across different teachers with different ideas and teachings, I lost the thought of becoming a priest. I can remember having different interests like becoming a doctor, a teacher, or just becoming a simple person at home. I also lost the interest to continue my education. However, during that year when I was at home, in 2007, I tried my very best to get involved with the people doing community work and to take part in many programs or activities that they made.

Towards the end of the year, in October 2007, I was asked to go and sit for the VunaBosco entry test. My uncle brought me to the school. On the desk I was surprised to see the question paper in front of me. I took a deep breath with a short prayer and started answering the questions. After some weeks I received my acceptance letter from the Rector. So in 2008 and 2009 I attended VunaBosco Agro -Technical Secondary School where I did my grades 11 and 12.

In VunaBosco, because of the preventive-system of St. John Bosco that the Salesian priests used to discipline us, I could feel that the atmosphere was providing me a good formation towards good spirituality. That is where I started my interest in the priesthood again and my first formation in all aspects of my life, and especially in my spiritual life.

I became assured of the virtue of this priestly call, and of knowing my obligation and duty as an aspiring candidate of this priestly call. I have been energized to accomplish this priestly call: it is now my first priority in life. And so I began to associate with priests, seeking advice from them and telling them about my interest. Some advised me to reflect back on my life to see if I could find my primary interest. Finally, I applied to the vocation director and was accepted to enter the formation house in 2010.