

MY VOCATION STORY

Hirinius Katapua is my name. I hail from Mile Village in East New Britain Province. The name of my father is Jacob Katapua and my mother's name is Regina Lotolde. Both my parents are subsistence farmers. In our family are four of us boys and one sister. I am the third born in my family. Our family always receives criticisms from other families because though we are Catholic but we never practice faith the way they like. One of the things that is famous in us is the way we practice love towards our neighbors. We are so generous to others, and they continue gossiping about us. We do take part in the church celebrations with the community. As I was growing up I had the desire to become a priest since before I entered primary school. My aim of becoming a priest in the future was only the thought and I was not thinking of any other vocation again. As I entered primary school the desire that I had continued to develop and I became more interested to enter the seminary. I did pray about it by asking God if it his will for me. As I entered high school I came across many temptations concerning women but I stood firm. As for me it is impossible for me to have sex, because sex is the gift for married people and if I commit it then I am sinning. This is fornication. I have told them that I am interested to become a priest and let me discern the call first if it is possible. When they did not listen to my advice I started escaping from them even though they were my best friends. I felt like giving up because some of them were even crying for me. They admired the way I behaved in the school. But I still overcome those temptations because I developed a good relationship with God. Vocation is a gift from God and I must nurture it so that it will bear fruit. So I expressed my desire to enter the seminary, and I was accepted with the assistance of my parish priest. As for me, I feel the presence of God in my life because of the little wisdom that I have through prayer. Prayer is truly my daily discipline. After completing grade twelve I entered the seminary in 2016. I did my first formation year followed by the second year and then the spirituality year. During these three years of formation I feel that I learned many things and I am closer to God. I believed so much in the infinite mercy of God though I am a sinful person. When I went for Christmas holidays, because holidays becomes a playing ground for the devil, I am always tempted by young girls at home. Through prayer I am still surviving. Honestly I did not want them to disturb God's will for me as I am still discerning it. I am always praying the Holy Rosary and Divine Mercy and the Breviary at home. Sometimes I used to share the knowledge that I learned from the seminary with the people and this made them feel happy about me. My parish priest used to congratulate me because he heard from the people speaking about my good attitudes. He encouraged me to continue doing it and making it part of my life. As for me, I have courage to confront people who need to change their way of thinking. I spent most of the time by staying in silence because silence is the secret language of God. This year I am doing my first year of philosophy at the Holy Spirit Seminary. I come to realize that it is challenging for me to fully develop a holy spiritual life by following the laws and regulations of the seminary. I have to think about developing a reflective living and a reflective critical thinking about the life of being in the seminary. I love praying a lot but I must also love my neighbor as well to fulfill the commandments. My difficulty is that I need to forgive my brothers when they do wrong to me, and I must pray for them. The greatest challenge for me is to live a celibate life because I am just a human being by nature. So I have to establish a healthy relationship towards women. I do believe that God is so merciful and loving to me. He will protect me as I continue discerning the mysterious call. I have to keep on knocking at the door at any time because he is an unsleeping God and is beyond time. Finally, my God is a God of Order and God of surprise.