

"A JOURNEY TOWARDS DISCOVERING THE HIDDEN TREASURE IN THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND"

Dear, Friends and Benefactors,

I am DANIEL Sakias, a first year theology student of Catholic Theological Institute (CTI) Bomana, Port Moresby. I come from the Diocese of Wabag. I wish to present in brief the story of my vocation in a parable.

In trying to explain the Kingdom of God, Jesus used a parable of the Hidden Treasure (Mt.13:44). Inspired by this parable, I feel that my vocation is like a journey towards discovering that hidden treasure in the Mysterious Island.

Someone once told me that there is a treasure hidden somewhere in an island. Only the heroes make it to that island and discover the hidden treasure. But the real heroes are the ones who discover the hidden treasure and become rich. As soon as I received the news, I did not wait. I only wanted to give it a try even without knowing for sure whether or not I would make it to that point. Before I left, I had to clear up the beautiful roses with thorns in front of my yard. One thing that really motivated me was the strong desire to get to the island and to discover the treasure.

I started to walk the first mile. The journey was interesting. There were also other people who came with me, some at the back, others ahead of me. When I reached the first mile, some experts instructed me, there is only one way to get to the island. Thinking of walking another mile, I pressed on. I came to a point where there were so many feeder-roads. Some people took the other feeder-roads, while I took the other way following the instruction of the experts. I successfully made it to the second mile. That was the point where I realized, there are miles ahead of me that I have to journey in order to make it to the island. I did not give up. I pressed on. Now there were high mountains with rough stones and deep valleys that I had to cross over. There were thorns in the big bush and flooding rivers that I had to pass through and cross over despite hot sun and heavy rain with storms and thunder. I naturally came to feel the tough challenges that I have to confront. As I confronted the first load of challenges, I was at the point of turning back home, because there were a lot of pressures and painful experiences when life seemed to be boring for me. However, I strived to get through all these experiences of life. I swallowed all these experiences in me. As I kept moving, each task became heavier. The more I moved on, the more challenging the journey became. At one point, while resting on the high peak of the mountain and looking back to the miles that I already passed, I asked myself; "Why all these challenges?" A voice I did not know said to me, "To get to the mysterious island to discover the treasure is not easy. It costs everything, even your life." At hearing this, I did not lose hope. I gained confidence. So far, I have already walked miles and miles despite challenges and painful experiences. I kept on reminding myself that I will still make it to the mysterious Island and discover the hidden treasure. If I turn back, my long journey will be a waste for me, and all my hard labour will be wasted. There is no need for me to go back but to take one more step forward in order to get to the island.

I know now that I have come very close to the mysterious Island and I want to use up all my last effort to step on the Island. I am so courageous and determined that I will still make it to the Island and discover the hidden treasure. So many challenges I have already confronted and I am ready to confront the toughest challenges that are ahead of me.

I have seen that some already made it to the island, but they are only enjoying the beauty of the beautiful environment without discovering the hidden treasure. It seems that they don't know where and how to discover the treasure while some are still searching for the treasure in the island.

I have a dream and a greater plan when I discover the hidden treasure. I will be so rich and will enjoy the good fortune of my luxury. This will also bring greater joy and happiness to my hardworking friends, benefactors, loved ones and those who care for me, because the treasure will be used to bring better development and services into the community and all people will benefit from it.

The HEROES do make it to the priesthood, but the REAL HEROES live the reality of the

priesthood even to the last breadth of their life on earth. They truly enjoy every moment of their priesthood life whether it be a painful or joyful. They live like Christ in every circumstance of their life.

I entered St. Fidelis Seminary in 2011. In the following year 2012, I did my spiritual year in Madang. In 2013, I was recommended to do religious studies in Good Shepherd Seminary, Banz. I successfully completed three years of religious studies and was awarded a Diploma and an Advanced Diploma in Religious Studies in the years 2014 and 2015. During my pastoral year last year 2016, I also did a research to earn a Bachelor of Religious studies. I successfully completed my research and was awarded with a Certificate of the Bachelor of Religious Studies. Last year, I did my pastoral in the Holy Family Parish in Sari with the Vicar General, Fr. Justin Ain. This year, 2017, I was accepted to study theology at CTI Bomana where I am doing my first year theology this year.

Thanks and may God bless you.

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