

The brief description of my family and my Call. By James Kambao – Theo - one (1) 2016

I come from a devoted poor family. I am a first born in my family. My biological father passed away when I was at primary school. I was brought up by my mother with my two younger brothers and my sister. My mother is a substance farmer. She has never been to school, but she managed herself and sent us to school. My father's brothers are priests, Fr. Lawrance Kambao and Fr. Lukas Kambao. My niece is a nun, Sr. Marie Bernadette. They normally help my mother to look after us. Fr. Lawrence Kambao was my eldest uncle. He was ordained on 18th January 1992. Unfortunately on the 21st January 1995, he also passed away, after three years and three days as a priest.

After experiencing the dark period for five years, God chose Lukas Kambao, the second born from the same family to be a priest. He was ordained on 18th January 2007 which was the same ordination date of Late Fr. Lawrence Kambao. During the ordination mass of Fr. Lukas Kambao, the people were in tears of joy from the beginning of the ordination to the end of the ordination mass. We were in tears of joy for the loving action of God, expressed through Fr. Lukas. Moreover, people from Tsaka Valley felt excited and happy because God raised the new priest from the same family.

Below are the brief words that my late uncle, Fr Lawrance Kambao implanted in life just before his death, on 18th January, 1995. I did not realize what he meant to me but after his death, I came to reflect what he meant in my life. Anyway, when I was selling the firewood on the roadside in the heavy rain, my uncle, Late Fr Lawrence came from his pastoral Parish (Mariant). He saw I was selling the firewood, and he stopped the car. He was seriously looking at me and he got on me. After couple of minutes, he gave me a box of yard plants for planting and said,

"Son, you plant my yard plants and look after them. I will come and chop them whenever I need it. You will never see me anymore as you see me now. You will come to know me when you become a man." Then he gave me a twenty toea (20t) coin and said, "Son, I don't have money to give you; a priest does not have money. A priest only carries the Bible. What I have is this twenty toea coin so I am giving it to you now. This simple twenty toea coin has a value. I know that one day you will refund my twenty toea coin with interest. Now I saw you are selling the dry firewood for your elder brothers and uncles in this heavy rain but one day you will experience the sun rays. They will come directly to you and you will be fully enjoying it. Son, I encourage you to go to school this year, to do Grade one or elementary prep rather than selling the firewood as being a street vendor."

His inspired words are the memories in my personal life, and I still keep his twenty toea coin that he offered to me. I did not understand what he had meant to me when he offered those yard plants and a twenty toea coin. I still keep his twenty toea coin and yard plants that he offered me to plant in my village. These are the only memories that he gave to me when I was a little boy. But on the other hand, I feel happy and thank God because God chose both of my uncles, Late Fr. Lawrence Kambao and Lukas Kambao as well as my niece, Sr. Marie Bernadette in my family to witness to Christ's mission. Unfortunately, Fr. Lawrence passed away but his words are the blueprint in my heart which never leaves me.

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