

Hi! I am Seminarian Micah Ramujuat from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Maprik, in the Catholic Diocese of Wewak. I come from Kinhangua Village in the Maprik Wora Local Level Government, Maprik District, East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea. I want to share my life's story and how I have heard and discerned the call to the Vocation to the Priesthood. The following is the story of how I have experienced the hand of God at work in my life from childhood to the seminary studies.

Actually, I am second in a family of twelve (12) that consists of six brothers, four sisters and our parents. Unfortunately, three died. The first born brother died in his childhood. And the two sisters died in their infancies. Now our parents have seven children with them. We are five brothers and two sisters; and me being the first. In the family, only the father was baptized. All the children were baptized later in life (not infant baptism). The mother was baptized late in 2006. The parents were and are subsistence farmers. The family is not rich, and not poor, but a content and happy family. Spiritually, to be frank, the family was not a prayerful family. The children and their mother knew nothing about prayer and God. Only their dad was an infant baptized Catholic.

I was born to Camillus and Josepah Ramujuat between 6:30 - 7:00 pm at Gaikwia hamlet, Kinbangua Village, early in the year of 1981 on the 19th of March. At the age of one week to one year, I was breast-fed by my grandmother and the other mothers in the village. This was because both of my mother's breasts were sore and swollen. So she couldn't manage to feed me for four months. My grandmother forced her breast to produce milk with the aid of the traditional herbal leaves. This was to stop me from crying in the mid and late hours at night. In the daybreak and during the day, she took me to the other mothers for breast-feeding. Fortunately, I survived by eating ripe banana and other soft food, from one year up to the age of eating hard food.

I started my primary education (grades 1-6) at Jame Primary School during the years of 1989 - 1994. After completing grade six, I continued doing grades 7-10 at Maprik High School (now Secondary) during 1995 - 1998. After that I was selected to take up one year Pre Employment Technical Training (P.E.T.T) course, Carpentry & Construction, at Madang Technical College in 1999.

Even though I scored good marks, passed all practical lessons, and had good recommendations, I couldn't manage to go on further. While in Madang Technical College, I heard and felt the call to the vocation of the Priesthood. One of the brothers from Chimbu where we were studying together, visited Saint Fidelis Seminary, Kap, Madang and shared about the life of the seminary and how to enter seminary to become a priest in the Catholic Church. His sharing somehow touched my heart, and it leaped for joy at that very moment. From that moment on, I kept that desire for the priesthood in my heart. It remained with me for 8 years (2000 - 2007) before I entered Saint Fidelis Seminary in 2008.

I did my primary and high school education in the government-run schools. Even Madang Technical College is run by the government. I was not yet baptized during those schooling years. I was still a pagan that time. I knew so little about God by observation through my dad; because he was the only Christian in the family that time. However, I picked up bits and pieces about God in my primary and high school years through the Religious Education Program. Thanks to the Religious Educators and to my dad for his gift of humbleness and faith which influenced me, even though I knew nothing about the Catholic Church, priesthood, brotherhood, sisterhood or anything of any sort of vocation promotion. I was like nobody from nowhere in the no-man's land.

In the beginning of the year 2000, I shared my interest to the vocation to priesthood with the Parish Priest, Fr. Rudy Bryer, SVD. Enthusiastically, he helped and advised me to take baptismal instructions every Saturday with the primary school students. I should have been getting instructions with the adults for three years in the RCIA program. However, after the instructions, I received the Sacrament of Baptism on the Solemn Feast of Christ the King, 26th of November 2000. On the 22nd of August I received the Sacrament of Confirmation by the Late Bishop Anthony Joseph Burgess, OFM.

After the baptism, from 2000 - 2007, I stayed home and helped out in the parish activities. I was appointed as a prayer leader in my Basic Christian Community (BCC),

Kinbangua Village, Area 6B. In 2005, I was asked by the BCC to attend a course at the Pastoral Center to become an extraordinary Communion Minister. I was active in the Catholic Youth Ministry while serving as a Communion Minister for 3 years (2005-2007) and in the Reading Ministry (proclaiming the Word of God every Sunday).

During those years, the call to the priesthood was still alive and burning deep within me. The call was coming slowly deep within the silence of my heart. I felt this call coming again and again when serving as a Communion Minister and when attending and participating in the Diaconate and Priesthood Ordinations in the Diocese. From 2007, again, I discussed my interest to priesthood with the parish priest, Fr. Bernard Burite, Dio. He then advised me to write to the Vocations Director for a second time. I was rejected for the first time because my level of education was up to grade 10. Anyway, from there, Fr. Bernard explained my situation to the Late Bishop Anthony J Burgess and the Vocations Director. I was given the "last" chance, either to pass the entry exam and go to the seminary or to fail the exam, find money somewhere, and do grades 11 and 12. I was told to write again to the vocations director after completing grades 11 and 12, if I still had the call and interest to the priesthood. Unfortunately, I was unable to continue doing grades 11 and 12. This was because my parents did not have enough money to pay for my school fees. I just simply gave way for them to educate other children with the little that they had. And I stayed home. Anyhow, with the "good will" I was given the entry examination to Saint Fidelis Seminary. After the exam in the late 2007, I was surprised to receive an acceptance letter from the rector of the Seminary, Fr. Bill Talentino, OFM, Cap.

I was accepted and admitted to Saint Fidelis Seminary in 2008 to do my Preparatory (Propaedeutic) year. In 2009, I did Spiritual Year. After that, I continued to Good Shepherd Major Seminary for Philosophical Studies. After completing 3 years of Philosophical Studies, from 2010 - 2012, I did a year of pastoral experience in one of the parishes in the diocese. I was recommended and accepted to Holy Spirit Seminary and Catholic Theological Institute (CTI) for 3 years Theological Studies. In the years 2014 and 2015 I was in the HSS and CTI. 2016 was another year of pastoral experience. And 2017 is my final year of Theological Studies. I am looking forward to the Ministry of Diaconate; and later to the priesthood in the years to come, if the Good Lord wills it. Cheers and good luck Micah! Thank you and God bless you all for reading this piece of story. Amen.