

# VOICE OF HOPE

FROM HOLY SPIRIT SEMINARY, BOMANA, PORT MORESBY, PNG.

1st Year

MARCH 2022

NO 1



## Rector's Voice



This year of formation at Holy Spirit Seminary began with a great surprise regarding the number of the seminarians. On the initial list there were 88 (presently 83), the highest number since the beginning of the third millennium. So there was a great mobilization to prepare the rooms. We also needed to prepare different social rooms and the visitor's rooms in the staff house. We are grateful that the seminary is full to the extremes.

Among the staff we welcome a new member, Fr. Joseph Amith CM, the Spiritual Director, who replaced Fr. Marceliano Oabel CM. Fr. Mars, after three years of outstanding formation service, decided to return to his country.

And the third surprising news. Four of our seminarians (Bernard Tohian, Joseph Aria, Raphael Gobi, and Philip Opeae) were accepted for the formation of theological study at the Pontifical Urbanian College in Rome - a great privilege and great challenge for them.

We are living in the spirit of the Synod of the Bishops on SYNODALITY, the three years process initiated by Pope Francis in Rome in October 2021 encouraging all of us to walk together as the beloved sons and daughters of God, to reflect and update in us the spirit of the Second Vatican Council, and especially to listen: to listen to God and to others. The theme of our formation program is connected with the guidelines of the Synod: TO LISTEN: IN SOLITUDE – COMMUNITY – AND MINISTRY. In this way to become more faithful disciples of Jesus.

“If we want to be disciples of Jesus, we have to live a disciplined life... The order that Jesus teaches us [...] begins by being with God in solitude; then it creates a fellowship, a community with whom the mission is being lived; and finally this community goes out together to heal and to proclaim good news.” (Nouwen, Henri J. M.. Community (p. 15-16). Orbis Books. Kindle Edition. 2021.)

**FR. JACEK TENDEJ CM**

**RECTOR**

## THE HISTORY OF “*THE VOICE OF HOPE*”

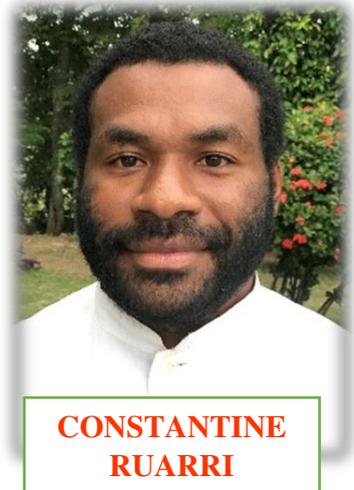
I was surprised to be announced as the winner of the Holy Spirit Seminary monthly chronicle cover page competition on the 10th of February, 2022. Firstly, I would like to thank the heavenly Father for the wisdom and the insights given to me. Secondly, special thanks to the office bearers and Fr. Amit the spiritual director of Holy Spirit Seminary for their tireless time and initiative given so far. And not forgetting the other formators and my fellow brothers who also took part in this competition. Thank you!

What really inspired me to come up with this title the “Voice of Hope” is that, the Church of today has to become the main vocal of hope to those who are being rejected or neglected in our societies. For instance, many young girls have been sexually abused or being rejected by their biological parents because of unwanted pregnancy. Many parents don’t know how to handle or deal with such issue. As the result, the victim can do anything to harm herself if there is no hope or solution. She can commit suicide or abortion at the end.

On the other hand, the rise of law and order issue is at an alarming rate. Many youths have taken and consumed drugs and cheap alcohol which is very harmful to their own health. Yet, the government and the higher authorities seemed to neglect and pay no attention to them. They don’t know how to find some alternatives to at least help the youths become successful and be productive. The only solution the government tries to enforce upon these poor victims is to lock them behind bars.

As a seminarian studying to become a priest, how can I put my input to educate the youths and they will realize their God given gifts and talents? To reach everyone is impossible, but I hope they will receive new insights if they willing to read some of the inspired articles based on moral ethics, human formation, and religious activities that will be published in the Holy Spirit Seminary monthly chronicle. They will received new insights and directions not only in the pulpit on Sundays but through this new form of evangelization radicle conversion might take place.

Finally, the aim or goal of the Church is to give her best to ensure that those victims must have the hope, the truth and the freedom in which they were longing for. With that, they have to really believe and trust in God as the source of everything without giving excuses and denying his divine power and providence (Rom 1:20).



Ruarri Constantine  
(Archdiocese of Madang)

## Trust Your Call



**Paul Leme. Mendi Diocese**

A priest, brother, sister or a seminarian will have their own tales regarding the call to religious life. Some may surprise you, make you think, educate you, inspire you, etc. but for some, they may change your life. Therefore, here I want to write about my vocation (priesthood vocation) story.

The priesthood vocation or the call to become priest arose when I was in grade twelve (2008). However, I have decided to withdraw from school, due to school fee problem. For me, I know that education is vital and lives' beneficial. Hence, I did mini sales so that I can help myself to pay for the following year. Eventually, I have managed to fix the amount which has been proposed by the school (Mogol Secondary School).

Then one day I asked one of my brothers (extended), 'inap yu kisim mi igo long bisop (Steven Reichart, OFM, Cap), bai em iken helpim mi long skul fi? (would you take me to Bishop Steve so that he may help me for the school fee?). I said that because Catholic Christians talked around that he used to help students with school fees. And yet the response was: 'yu ino Katolik' (you aren't Catholic). This statement challenged my life. I was troubled with this statement. During the night I couldn't sleep well since I was thinking too much about the situation. I concluded within myself that I will go for Mass on Sunday.

The coming Sunday I went to the church. After the Eucharistic Celebration I confronted the catechist. I said to him, "inap yu baptaisim mi?" (Can you baptize me?). His response was, "kam long narapla Sande" (you may come next Sunday). On that Sunday he said the same thing until to the fifth Sunday. He wrote my name together with others and prepared us to be baptized on Christmas (2008). It wasn't easy for me to do that. I didn't know or understand the proper procedures especially to become a full Catholic Christian member in the Church.

My faith (Catholic) has huge impacts. On 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2008, I was baptized by my parish priest (Fr Robert Gigmai). The following year (2009), I continued my twelfth year in Mogol Secondary School in Mendi. In the middle of the year, the Vocation Director, Fr Robert Gigmai came to the school to conduct the seminary's entry test. I set for it somehow and I passed the entry test. I was accepted to do my first propaedeutic year in St Fidelis Minor Seminary in Madang Province.

In 2010, I completed the formation year successfully. The following year I was suspended due to possessing of cellphone for it was one of the seminary policies. Never the less, the force inside me did not cease me from going back to the seminary. However, in 2013, I was asked to continue the formation program in Good Shepherd Seminary, Fatima, Banz, Jiwaka Province.

Then again I was suspended the second time in 2015 due to drinking beer in the campus. I was troubled and annoyed. What would I say when the people in the diocese or the parish asks me? Whom should I blame? What will I do? Where will I go? These questions and other thoughts

were floating in my head making me confused and my mind was occupied with many negative thoughts. Few days later, I had this strange feeling that someone is calling me deep within my heart, a voice. I tried to listen but I could not understand. For some time that voice kept calling to me again and again. Finally I gave my whole being to listen to that voice, and that voice came into my mind like this, “don’t give up...face the current situation.” And that voice really gave me hope because I started listening to it with my heart in spite of all the downfalls, weakness, struggles in life, and I was able to withhold my psychological position again after I had ruined it for some time.

In 2019, after many struggles and hardships, I was able to complete my final year in Advanced Diploma in Good Shepherd Seminary and I still remember and greatly appreciate what the Good Spirit has done for me in this journey of vocation towards priesthood.

The following year, 2020, I was sent to do my pastoral formation in Western Deanery, Mendi Diocese. That year was very hard and challenging but I endured it through my first hope that is the Voice of God, “face the current situation.” With that, I survived all the calamities, agonies, struggles, hardships, etc. Though it was some experience, but always remember, have faith and believe in God and act according to His will, for God anything is possible.

God Bless You !!!

## THE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

DEC 2021 – FEB 2021



The occasion itself is a remembrance of the very time our mothers gave birth to us. We are grateful of the life that God gave to us. Thanks to God the source of life.

Francis TINA  
(Archdiocese Rabaul)

## ***A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF LATE SEMINARIAN FREDRICK SAUMOT SEBIE,***



Late Seminarian Freddy Saumot Sebie comes from a very devout Catholic Family and he is originally from Awar Village in Bogia District - Madang Province. He is the second born in the family of 9, (6 girls & 3 boys). He received his Baptism & confirmation in Holy Trinity Parish - Bogia, in the Archdiocese of Madang.

His birthday is on the 9th of April 1991 and born into eternal life is on the 13th of February 2022.

One of his outstanding characteristics is; He has the heart to listen and has a very down to earth personality. A great listener even if he knows more about what someone is sharing or discussing he will always keep quiet and listen with smiles on his handsome face.

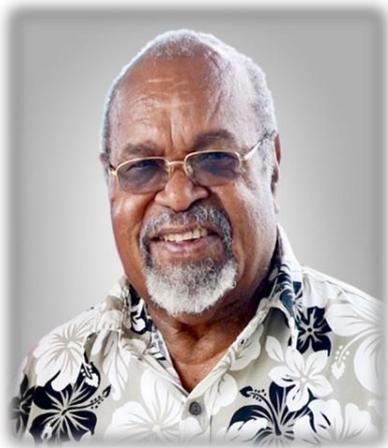
### **Education Background**

He had the desire to become a priest and so in the year 2009 he entered St. Fidelis Seminary he did his philosophical studies in Good Shepherd Seminary - in Banz, Jiwaka Province later he was recommend to continue his studies in Rome. However Bishop Emeritus Stephen suggested that he should first undergo a full year pastoral program before he can be sent to Rome. And so in the year 2015 Seminarian Freddy Sebie completed his pastoral year program in St. Cyril & Methodius Parish - in Mikerew Parish, Bogia. In 2016 he was in Holy Spirit Seminary - Bomana, preparing his way to go down to Rome so in the mid - year of June or September 2016 he flew down to Rome. He commenced his study in Rome (Italy) at Pontifical Urbaniana University in 2017 - 2020 and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Theology. In October 2021 he was recommended to do his First year licentiate in the same University in Missiology which he did successfully however he was not able to complete the second year due to his sickness which led to his death on the 13th of February 2022 in his room in Rome.

I would like to end with his last Post last year on his Facebook account dated on the 9th of April 2021 which was his 30th Birthday - He wrote *"The journey begins at 30, to turn another year old is a blessing and to be alive is a gift. Yes we make mistakes and we learn and every day we become a little bit mature...I thanked God for everything. Life is good, celebrate life!"*

***-Fr. Solomon Akaya,  
Vice-Rector for Student Affairs***

## *First Anniversary Mass of Our Founding Father Great Grand Chief Sir Michael Thomas Somare*



On 26<sup>th</sup> February, the people of Papua New Guinea, united as one Nation and one Country, commemorated the first death anniversary of our founding father, Great Grand Chief Sir Michael Thomas Somare. For many around the nation honored the founding father in their own ways. As for the community of Holy Spirit Seminary (HSS) in Bomana, celebrated the Holy Eucharist at around 6:45 am, in honor of the founding father of our great nation, PNG. The main celebrant was Rev. Fr. Peter Channel Silong, (Vice-Rector for Pastoral Affairs), together with the Solomon Akaya (Vice-Rector for Student Affairs), and Rev. Fr. Marcelliano Oabel, CM (outgoing Spiritual Director of HSS).

During the Mass, Fr. Peter delivered his homily; as he connected the readings of the day, especially the Gospel (*Mark 10: 13-16*), with the life of Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare. Following the words of our Lord Jesus Christ; Fr. Peter stated, that Jesus reminds us (especially the ones who are in the age of reason) to be incense as a child, and to always seek, ask help, wisdom and insight from God. Thus, whoever follows the teaching of Jesus Christ, will enter the kingdom of Father and He will bless them. Likewise our dear Great Grand Chief, who really lived a childlike life according to the instruction of Christ and through the teachings of the church, been faithful till his death. Fr. Peter conclude the homily with an invitation to pray for the current leaders so that they too can follow the good example of the Grand Chief, and to pray for the children as they are the future of our great nation, that is so diverse and unique in culture, from the Highlands to the Islands and to the Coastal, regardless of the diversity, the Great Grand Chief was able to unite all of us together, so as to be united as one body Christ.



***BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF HIS EMINENCE SIR JOHN  
CARDINAL RIBAT IN THE HOLY SPIRIT SEMINARY***



## *Academic Year Inauguration mass of Holy Spirit seminary*



### **SUMMER SEMINARIANS**

Several youths from the Holy Name Parish volunteered to take care of Holy Spirit Seminary, Bomana (HSS) during Christmas break. There were eight of them together with nine seminarians who also volunteered to help and assist in the seminary, with them, were two Vincentian priests who are formators of HSS; Fr. Marcelliano Oabel, CM (the outgoing Spiritual Director) and Fr. Jacek Tendej, CM (the Rector of HSS). It was a great experience for the youths, who called themselves Summer Seminarians. They celebrated their fifth Anniversary, since 2017 to 2021. For it was a great initiative for the youths, more or less not only to take care of the place, rather to give them a formative experience and an opportunity to experience the life of the seminary during summer break. The five years of Summer Seminarians really bear fruit in the light of vocation, and now six young men have from the Parish have joined the religious life; four joined the Vincentian, one joined the Dominican Friar and the other one joined the Archdiocese of Port Moresby as seminarians.

## ***WE ARE BLESSED THIS YEAR 2022***



Many are called but few are those who allow themselves to be chosen. This is a familiar phrase used by the religious brothers and sisters, Seminarians and Priests. For last five to six year few seminarians from Papua New Guinea and Solomon Island lived in the formation center of the Holy Spirit Seminary. The longing for more vocation is one the main theme prayer for the Holy Spirit Seminary for some years. Not forgetting the good will who also prayed tirelessly for more vocation. Finally the prayers for more vocation was answered and now we are more privilege to have 85 Seminarians from different Diocese of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Island (PNGIS). And also we are blessed with new Spiritual Director Fr. Joseph Amith CM, but not long we will be missing our former Spiritual Director Fr. Mars.

On February 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> we have the annual spiritual retreat with our new Spiritual Director Fr. Joseph Amith CM. He shared with us some spiritual insights. After retreat we have the opening Mas for the new academic year 2022. Fr. Jacek Tendej (Rector) was the main celebrant. And then we were privilege to celebrate the birthday of Cardinal Sir John Ribat Bishop of Moresby Diocese on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February. And followed by the CTI Mass celebration. The new President of CTI was the main celebrant during that time. CTI Mas was disturbed all last year due to Covid 19 but now we are blessed.

But in the first and second week of February two of our beloved brothers left us. Sumai Kawage from Kundiawa Diocese and Francis from Mendi diocese. We wish them good health in their next chapter of their lives. Currently we are left with 83 seminarians plus five formatters. Fr. Mas former Spiritual Director will leave us soon. We wish him a good holiday with his family and friend at home.

It is a great honor to have many seminarians from different Diocese with different cultures introduced to the culture of Holy Spirit Seminarian. The theme for this year stands, “Less talking and more action or doing.” There is a hope that Seminarians can enjoy their formation by action or doing more rather than talking a lot.

*By: Samuel Noglai (Th3)  
Kundiawa Diocese*

## *SMILE OF HOPE*



In the world today, many of us feel trouble, doubt, guilt, shame, fear, rejected or excluded, friendless, unrespected, boring and tired, unloved, strengthless, divided, or even hopeless and many more. These are the things which evolve from within us; sure, it is something that no other person could see. In reality, how do we feel when at times we fall into one of these feelings? Psychologically, those who have such feelings may sometimes act negatively towards himself, his prayer life, studies, responsibilities, lecturers, neighbours, and the whole of the community in which he or she lived.

In fact, none of us could deny when we first experience these negative feelings, and what we do, we look for someone who has some words of hope, but others, I would say, most have not. Most of us do not know where to seek help, how to share our feelings, who is the right person to talk to, and what would be the feedbacks that we would receive from others; and this is what exactly happening in front us today. The problem is that we do not see if it happens the same way for others, then, just imagine that our community is full of people with such feelings.

The only thing, by experience, one time when I passed-by the notice board, I saw two brothers standing and busy reading; so I asked, “Are you alright, and both of them replied, yes we are. All of a sudden, one of them run to stop me as I reaches the last step down from the building, and I said, yes, yes, and he replied, can you help us how to connect with CTI network? Oh please! I replied, I maybe, but not fully help in that position, only I could refer you to some right persons.

The most interesting thing is, when I asked, did you ask some of your brothers, or classmates or anybody else, and he said, no, we feel uneasy to speak to them; and so I said, what is the difference from me and others, or is it that I am the SRC President or what, and he said no, *‘It is because you smile to us at the first place.’* Oh! I did not realise I was smiling to you. At least a smile can bring hope for, and can allow someone to tell you or share his or her inward feeling and doubt with you, and this smile that you give is a Smile of Hope showing that you are open to listen to others.

Martin Maximillian Maka

Diocese of Lae

1 Mar. 22

## CATHOLIC DIOCESEAN CLERGY ON-GOING FORMATION

Forty-nine Diocesan clergy from various dioceses in Papua New Guinea come to Port Moresby in Holy Spirit Seminary to attend the On-going Clergy Formation Program, that lasted for six days, on the 5<sup>th</sup> to the six sixth of January. Those attended the program were senior Diocesan priest who have lived a life of service for the Kingdom, ranging from 15 years and above as priest. The program was set and prepared by Fr. Jacek Tendej, CM and Fr. Marcelliano Oabel, CM, who also involved the Summer Seminarians to help assist and prepare the rooms and other necessary arrangements for the priests.

Several speakers were invited to deliver presentations and talks on certain topics, basing on the theme of the formation program, “LISTENING CHURCH; LISTENING CLERGY.” It was focused on SYNODALITY, were both clergy and the lay faithful are encouraged to listen to God, the Church, and each other so as to walk together on this journey of faith.



The program was really an opportunity and a helpful experience for the priests. Few of them expressed at the end, that it was really nice to meet some of their old friends, and that it was an update for them to know what is going on in the church of PNG and up broad. All the senior priests appreciated, supported, and encouraged that such program should be offered once in a while during the last talk by his Eminence, Cardinal Sir John Ribat, MSC, D.D, K.B.E., especially for diocesan priest.

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BY –

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|-------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| SAMUEL NOGLAI                 | - | THIRD YEAR THEOLOGY  |
| RAPHAEL GOBI                  | - | SECOND YEAR THEOLOGY |
| FR. JOSEPH EMMANUEL AMITH C.M | - | SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR   |