

My Vocation

Hello to everybody! My name is Riccardo, I'm from Salzano, a small town in the North of Italy. This year, 2020, I am a seminarian in Papua New Guinea, for a reason that is not yet clear to me, but I'm willing to discover it. Although I'm still on the journey to discern my vocation, I can't forget some clear indications I had in my boyhood.

When I was attending high school, I was spending most of the time going out with my friends. In our small town the activities and places for the youth were not many, so we were staying along the road or in some small parks here and there. When the situation was really boring, our imagination was over-stimulated, and unfortunately we were making some disasters that brought us to move from place to place. Practically all of us were "allergic" to the church and its connected activities. The only relationship we were having with the Catholic Church was when the Priest was coming out to chase us because we were kicking the ball on the wall of the church.

After some years, when I was about 16, and always doing the same things, a feeling of emptiness started to grow inside of me. At the same time I was feeling a desire to do something different. One of my friends and I were just thinking about going one day to Africa to help in the construction of a well. After a couple of years the desire was still there and was even stronger. I can remember one day that I was home and a thought came in my mind: "Why don't I try to realize this thing?" After some research I found an association available to let me depart during my summer holidays. And finally on 2 August 2013, with a small group of youths, I went to Ecuador for one month. It was a very nice experience of sharing with the people there.

When I came back to school the following year, a sister came in our school to share their missionary experience that was going on in the Philippines. While listening to the presentation something touched my heart, and from that moment I decided that I wanted to go there. Only after three years I really decided to go, and meanwhile the sisters moved in Papua New Guinea. So on February 2017 I went for two months in Bereina to visit the community and to share a missionary experience. It was only there for the first time that I discovered the Catholic Faith. After the two months, I decided to come back for a longer period. Finally I stayed there for three years in total, where I had the possibility to dedicate some time to God. Little by little, with the help of the community, I begin to consider the possibility of this call from God. Finally I decided to join the Holy Spirit Seminary, with the hope and desire to discover the will of God for me.

Thanks to everybody for your help, and I take this opportunity to ask for your prayers for all of us. God bless you!