

## Methodius Maniarah - My Vocation Background.

This paper will explain and tell us about my coming here to the Seminary, as I am present here. It is about my vocation background. I will be pointing out what is the reason, why I am journeying in this journey of life which is to become a priest in the Church of Christ. More so, I will be stressing what motivates me towards this vocation. For every journey that we take in life, there must be always a triggering factor that triggers the individual on the vocation or the call that he answered.

In my case, I am journeying as a seminarian towards the priesthood, and that demands of me a lot of sacrifices, detachments, commitments, and self-discipline. More so in obedience and a total submission to the authority that represents Christ. Also by following the rules and regulations inserted for us seminarians for our formation so that we can grow into full maturity in the four areas of formation (Physical, Spiritual, Intellectual and Pastoral).

By the way, not to detail everything, I will briefly say something about my vocation as a seminarian studying towards priesthood. So back to my childhood days when my parents brought me to Sunday mass, I would always admire the priests in their cassocks, which really made me have the thought of becoming a priest one day in my life. However, at that time, many priests who have done the serving were missionaries mainly from Germany. In addition to that, my father, from what I heard from my elder brothers in this time now as a seminarian, always said to me things like; "The son of mine will become a priest," without me knowing what had happened. Therefore, that was my first inspiring factor towards my vocation.

Years later, I did my elementary and primary education at Hapan Primary School where teachers asked me about my future goal and my response was to become a priest. Therefore, that aim was with me up until I entered and completed grade twelve in the Bishop Wade Secondary School. From there I applied for the propaedeutic program at Maviri Formation Centre where I was under the care of Fr. Benedict Hiss as my moderator and formator at that time. I completed my eight months there. Then I was able to go to Rapolo Seminary for philosophy and religious study for three years. After that, I went for a spiritual year to Putput Spiritual Formation Centre. Finally, I made it to Bomana Catholic Theological Institute where I am currently doing my Theology One (TH1), and this is my fourth year in the seminary studying towards the priesthood.

Also regarding my vocation, there are many concrete motivating factors that motivate me towards to this Call of becoming a priest. One of these many factors is that faithful Catholics in my parish are moving out of the Catholic faith and are misled to other denominations and more so to some other movements which are not aligned with our Catholic faith. Therefore, this is so much a challenge to me as a seminarian studying towards the priesthood. Some reasons behind this, is that priests administering there are not reaching out to the people in the isolated areas in the parish to do visiting etc. Therefore, the people miss the presence of the priest as the shepherd of the flocks and begin to make up their minds in following their own instincts.

By the way, all the above mentioned thinking are my motivate factors and a brief background of my vocation. However, the very essence or the core of my being here is that, I feel and I believe that God is calling me to this journey of life. More so, to sacrifice myself in doing studies and to persevere in other areas of formation for the sake of God's people. I must have to form well in order to give the right information and teachings about Catholic faith to the people of God out there in the field.