

JOHN WAI CSMA, VOCATION STORY

I'm John Wai CSMA from Jiwaka, Mount Hagen Archdiocese. Joining the religious life or to study in the seminary to become priest was my dream since I was in the sixth grade. During my sixth grade, I read an article of Fr. Joseph, the first SVD missionary priest to China. I was really caught up by his very farewell words to his family, friends and his country. In his farewell speech he said, "See you all in heaven." He didn't say; see you on holiday or after some years. As the newly ordained priest, he dedicated his whole life to God totally and completely. When he encountered hardships and difficulties in China, he wrote to his parents by saying, if you want me to come back and become the president, then my answer will be, I will become the simple servant of God. Reading this article was the beginning of my vocation.

As soon as I completed my year 12 in 2012, I showed my interest by writing about it to the Congregation of St. Michael the Archangel (CSMA), or in short we call Michaelite. They accepted me and for one year I did my postulant. During the postulant period, I was given an entry exam to enter the seminary. Five of us set for exam but only I passed the exam. This marked the beginning of my seminary formation.

In 2014 I went to Saint Fidelis Minor Seminary. For two years I did propaedeutic one and two. Thirty-three of us were in the same class. But after two years, some already left the program. I left my classmates and joined those who were one year ahead of us to study philosophy. I mean, my classmates were doing the spiritual year at St. Fidelis while I went on studying philosophy at Good Shepherd Seminary at Banz, Jiwaka province.

From 2016-2018, I took religious studies at Good Shepherd Seminary. I graduated with an Advanced Diploma in Religious Studies in 2018.

In 2019 I did my novitiate program at the Michaelites formation house in Rebiamul, Mt. Hagen. This was a special year for me especially and Fr. Peter Hadro CSMA was my novitiate master. This was to prepare myself to enter the religious life and to be a member of the congregation. I stayed with the novitiate master for one full year. It the canonical year for the novitiate is 365 days so I did that. During this special year, I learned about the founder of our congregation, his charisma, the constitution of the congregation, and I read more spiritual books. At the end of my novitiate, I made my first profession to become a member of the congregation. I started the novitiate program on the 20th of January 2019, and I made my contemporary vow on the 19th January 2020. I became a member of the Michaelite Congregation.

At end of 2019 I applied to the Catholic Theological Institute to study Theology and I was accepted, so now I'm studying here now. I'm doing second year theology this year 2020. However many of my classmates left the program, and we are left with five now. I always pray and asked God to help me through. My desire is that God will not only help me to become a Catholic Priest, but a holy catholic priest.