

Vocation Story

It was after my first year in the seminary that I came to realize how God worked in my life. But before that, my life was not preparing for seminary life or to be a priest. Indeed, I had no idea about this life or even been told about this life. The decision I made to come into the seminary was not influenced by any human or by myself because all my life I was dreaming of another life altogether. Choosing the seminary studies is a choice for which I could not provide any explicit reasons. However, in the midst of this circular life, I was an ordinary practicing Catholic. My mother was the one who introduced me into the Catholic faith and continued to encourage me to pray and attend religious activities. She was the light that set the foundation of what I am now.

As a growing teenager attending primary education, I was interested in singing and music. I participated in the choir practices and attend charismatic ministry groups just to sing songs. This impelled me know how to play guitar. Besides, one thing I used to treasure even to this day is the simplicity and humble behavior of my kinsmen. As a blood-related son and brother, I could sense in me that I have this virtues. The patience within me directed me to act morally in the community.

My life was totally changed when I entered the high school. I adapted myself to behaviors that any young men can do. But I still pursued my interest in singing and music. I also developed a habit of judging people, situations, and differentiating right from wrong. My judgments and rationalization restricted me to do what is not acceptable. At that time, I tried to be a good person. One time I was chosen by my teacher to attend a deaconate ordination for the first time. The experience I had at that time was something very new and different. Indeed, what I saw at that moment was kept in my mind, and whenever I see a priest it reminds me again of that moment. The following year I was chosen again to attend the priesthood ordination of that deacon. After the celebration, the principle took us to the residence of the St Fidelis Seminary where we had our lunch. He introduced the place to us and told us how young men study for the priesthood. That gave me a glimpse of how a person becomes a priest.

When doing my grade 12, this desire for priesthood studies became bigger, but I did not share it with anyone. Fortunately, the school chaplain announced after one Sunday that he was taking names of students who wished to study for the priesthood. Without hesitation, I gave mine and sat for the entry test. I passed the test and received the acceptance letter to come into the seminary. Upon receiving the letter, I made my decision to study for priesthood. After all these, I informed my close relatives, and they reacted negatively about my decision. They know I am a smart fellow and deserve to study in a university and meet their expectations.

And again, to study for priesthood was not my aim in life. Indeed, in the midst of that wretched life, I didn't know that the Lord was there all the time watching and directing me to comprehend his will in my life. Through his bounteous graces, I made my decision to come into the seminary. In fact, no one advised me to choose to come into the seminary. Those are the impulses that impelled me to choose this path. Initially, thinking of becoming a priest wasn't my desire, but as time elapsed, I gradually became accustomed with the various programs and the traditions of the seminary. Eventually, those experiences determined my decision to continue my studies.

Moreover, when I came into the seminary, I brought with me all my bad habits and addictions. From the beginning, I found it very difficult to detach from those things because they were so much a part of me. The first experience was that the seminary wasn't the right place for me to stay, so I thought of withdrawing and finding other tertiary institution. There were many ill feelings and distractions which nearly put me down. In spite of those challenges and difficulties, I continue to stay loyal to the laws and guidelines of the seminary. While staying on the first vacation, I saw and felt something extremely different in my life. I could explicitly see the goodness of it and the differences it caused in my life. I was attracted to the glimpse of the seminary life and took it as if God's hand was directing me.

Through the grace of God in His Word and the Sacraments, I was able to justify myself and began to change my life. The seminary programs and the knowledge that was imparted to me helped me to be able to detach myself from my addictions and gave me the opportunity to discern better the will of God in my life. At the present, I can feel that God is calling to be a priest.

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