

How my vocation came to be.

Martin Dulau

I started my education at the St. Michael's Elementary School in 2001 and continued my primary education at St. Michael's Primary School from 2002 to 2009 doing my grades 1 to 8. Despite my denomination as a Lutheran, I spent most of my time engaging in Catholic, religious, church activities such as cleaning and decorating the church, serving mass as altar server, and spending my own time memorizing the prayers.

In addition, I was one of the satisfactory students in St Michael's primary School. In spite of this, after I completed my primary education, I was offered a placing to continue my high school education at the Good Shepard Lutheran High School, at Baitabag, to do my grade 9 and 10 from 2010 to 2011.

Through my commitment and hard work towards my studies, I again secured a placing at the Malala Catholic Secondary School to continue my education proceeding to do my grade 11 and 12. Studying there at Malala Catholic Secondary School was a bit challenging due to other social activities, peer pressure, and so forth.

However, spending some of the time with Father Bonny, I felt that I was called to follow this lifestyle because I had a sensation to follow the life of Christ and so I began to respond to this call. When I started to respond to my call, my entire family disagreed with me for almost two years. They said that they do not want to listen or hear anything about my desire to follow this lifestyle. After the two years of silence, I still had this desire to become a priest. So, I asked my father for the last time saying, would you allow me to go to the seminary? And the answer that I got is negative. Then, I realized that I had tried all my best to convince them but they still stood firm on their decisions. So I said to myself, just forget it and let go of it.

Moreover, when I started to find my ways to make myself forget about this desire or call to this vocation to the priesthood, I felt that it wasn't working. Because, though I forgot it, it was still continuing to appear in my mind again and again in an irregular interval. Then, I realize that I have to do something on my own. So, I decided to go by myself without the consultation of my parents in order to satisfy my desire. And so, I approached the vocation director and I told him about my situation and my interest to follow this lifestyle. After having the chart with him, he asked me to provide the legal church documents such as baptism and confirmation certificates so that he could bring it to the bishop for the confirmation and the performing of the rite to formally take me into the Catholic Church. However, when my father heard about this, he changed his mind by giving me permission to join the Catholic Church and become one of their members.

After all the complications that I have gone through, I was given an approval by the Bishop to become a member of the Catholic Church and to become a priest. Then I sat for the entry test and later on I was enrolled at the St. Fidelis Minor Seminary in Madang in 2015.

Furthermore, I started my priestly study in 2015 and in 2016 24th of January; I was given a Catholic Christian name and was confirmed to be called Martin Dulau from the old name of Salifu Dulau.

All in all, this is how my vocation started but, when I began to respond to it, I encountered many complications in trying to follow it. In spite of this, I am a Lutheran but I converted to the Catholic Church and I am still learning the Catholic faith and believe that will confirm and make me to become a true Catholic priest in the future.