

My vocation story

My name is Wenceslaus Baku Wirrie. I was born of mixed parentage. My parents are from different province of Papua New Guinea. My Father is from the South Coast of Madang, (Rai Coast) district, and my mother is from East part of Chimbu, Chuave district. We are seven (7) in the family, three brothers and four (4) sisters. I was the second to the last born in the family. My father's name is Siba and my mother Gonmer.

I was born in village at a small health centre on the sixth (6) of September in 1990. I was brought up in the care of my mother when father died; I was in the age of 4 - 5 years old then, and my small brother was a baby. And at the young stage of reasoning years, at 5 -6 years of age, my mother too. She passed away when my last brother was 3 years old. He was adopted by an elder sister who was married to Goroka man. I was adopted by another elder brother and went to Lae. I became the first born in the family because they had no child, but later they had had one boy. I was brought up in a well-disciplined family and started my education there.

In 1999 - 2006 went to school doing my grade 1 - 8 at a Lutheran primary school called St. Paul Primary School, Lae Morobe Province. I continued the secondary level of education in different schools. I did grades 9 - 10 at Busu Secondary (2007-2008) and 11- 12 at Lae Secondary (2009 -2010) in Lae, Morobe Province.

However, I did not get any offer from other tertiary institution, so I stayed at home for another two (2) years in Lae. I felt hopeless, doing nothing but drinking and going around with girls, especially at parties and playing sports. You see, my life was getting worse and in chaos. And also I walked blindly, jumping from one denomination to another looking for something good in life. I had no root of faith in the Christian life in Christ, but was blown by the different spirits everywhere I wished to. I started with S. D. A, Lutheran, other Pentecostal churches, the United Church and to the Catholic Church as the last church.

There I came home, to Madang where I was born and grew up in the village. I stayed for another one year with the family in the village. Then I observe the Catholics, which my own family was connected to. And it was a new kind religion in the community because people had in the past believed in supreme gods. So, I going around with those who were being converted to the Catholic Church, especially the youth of the church and of the community to do something necessary for the faith. There I started to hear the call of my vocation through others and my family who urged me. I became a catechumen and saw the needs of the souls in the community and the nation as a whole. I followed the voice, and I converted to Catholic Church and received baptism and confirmation. So, I first wrote to S V D. No responses came but diocesan seminary did respond to my desire and granted me an invitation to the priesthood vocation. I went to the seminary in 2015 at Cap, St Fidelis Seminary, Madang. There I was really struggling with my faith, with the spiritual life, and with formation in the daily programs in the seminary as an individual person.

In the seminary, I had go through many conflicts with my human nature, being restless and my time was occupied with work. Sometimes I got angry with brothers for little things against the rules of the school or myself. But, as time, days, weeks, months and years passed by, I came to understand and adapted to situations. As I follow the every programs scheduled in the school, I seem to understand and flow with the system of seminary formation.

My friendship inside the campus and outside was good and friendly in the campus; sharing ideas in study groups, discussing homework and assignments, and living together as brothers born to one mother. And at home I learned to stay with youth, and to build good and healthy relationships between boys and girls as brothers and sisters in the community.

And so In Jiwaka, Good Shepherd Seminary, I really enjoy the environment with its different climate and its surrounding vegetation . The people are friendly in terms of saying hello together with young, old, and children everywhere. On the other hand we are loaded with academic studies and also our struggles with physical or material things. But I am happy and glad to face the challenges and struggles in my daily life to be a well-formed being as a seminarian for a future priest, and not just a priest, but a holy priest.

Therefore, as a seminarian I am very glad for this vocation. For certainly, it is a special call among the thousand calls to be professional in different areas of life. I thank God for my

parents and for their love. I was able to exist because of God's plan for my life here on earth. My vocation was a special vocation in life. So, my journey for four (4) years was a challenging way through different difficulties I came across, but God who helps me helped me to come as far as this. My unbelief was the stepping stone of faith to the church through many challenges and difficulties. My very beginning point to be a Catholic was a turning point of my experience of truth in real life.