

## My vocation story.

I am Jack Paiau of the Archdiocese of Rabaul. I began my interest in becoming a priest when I was in grade eight, when we were asked by our class teacher Mrs. Lissie to write down two aims for the future. I wrote down priest as number one and teacher and hid it from my friends because otherwise they would make fun of me. That time I was also a member of the Legion of Mary devotion.

As I journeyed on with life I forgot the intention, but when I was about to do my written expression in grade twelve I got sick for almost six months, so I decided to withdraw from school. The following year the vocation promoter of the Sacred Inter-Diocesan Seminary Stanish Topuna came to our school giving vocation a talk and asking for interested candidates, so I wrote my name down. When I was called up for the entry exam I gave my best to pass it, but in the end it was a decision pending according to the rector Fr. John Cabrido sdb. I went back home and was praying, asking the Lord, "If it is your will, inspire my rector to accept me." Then I was finally accepted before doing my examinations.

The first year in the seminary I faced many difficulties and challenges and sometimes thought of leaving the seminary formation. As time passed I overcame them through personal prayers and monthly spiritual direction with Fr. Pankaj SDB. I also encountered many challenges before entering the seminary, I found it difficult to grasp concepts quickly, which resulted in not completing work on time. Also another challenge was my health, since it took two to three weeks before recovery. Through private prayer and commitment I continued offering them to God, and now I found that I endured them spiritually with great sacrifice. And here I am doing my first year of philosophy in the Holy Spirit Seminary Bomana.