

My name is Philip Totone. I was born on the 5th of June in 1997. I come from Tokai, my little village (sub parish) in the parish of Saint Joseph Matong of Pomio deanery of the Archdiocese of Rabaul. I come from a single parent family; father died and left mom with five children when I was a year old. I was a small child among my big brothers and sisters.

I completed my primary school of education in 2011 with a grade eight certificate. In 2012, I had an opportunity to excel in my studies to high school status. And I graduated with grade ten certificates in 2013. I was fortunate to maintain my pace to complete all secondary status. Finally I graduated with a grade 12 certificate in 2015.

I did not make it through higher institution for further studies. I struggled for other opportunities. I entered the code centre for the matriculation as the abiding opportunity in 2016.

While I was concentrating on my studies at the upgrading centre, I came across one of the seminarians who was preparing himself for his deaconate in the town of Kokopo. He asked me two questions which were kind of very convincing to me. Where can you find the real knowledge out in every institution in the world? What kind of knowledge are you searching for? What do you mean? I asked him. The truth of knowledge and the facts of life, he answered. I'm not sure Brother Seminarian. But if you know, can you let me know what you know. Are you willing to come to the seminary with me? No. My intention is not to go to the seminary, I told him. But he said to me, Come and see and you will know yourself. So he gave me all the addresses for me to write apply to the seminary. With no delay, I wrote with an unsure interest to seminary.

After three days, I received my acceptance letter. All my books in the code centre were put behind, and I focused on the acceptance letter I had received. Before entering seminary, I had no idea about seminary life. All I always have in mind regarding priests, was those who become priests do not earn education but only formed in discipline to work and prayer then they are ordained as priests for the people. Anyway, in 2017, I entered Rapolo seminary as a student in the formation to the priesthood. I stayed for two years in Rapolo. In 2019, I went to Madang for spiritual formation where I committed myself to God, discovering my own Spirituality. Currently 2020 is my first year here at Catholic Theological Institute as a first year student in Philosophy a diocesan candidate.