

Richard Bosco

In the early morning hours of October 15th /1993, around 4 am, my mother gave birth to me. She and my father were so overjoyed to have a second baby boy included into the family. I was the second born in the family. I was named after St. Richard of Chichester, from whom I got the name Richard. However, my parents were originally from East New Britain Province. My father's name is John Bosco Pamel and my mom, Sophie Tasi. They are very good and strong devote Catholics who they supported me to develop my faith according to the catholic principles.

My parents were very supportive and strict on us to have the full knowledge of our catholic faith. Similarly, inside our house, we have a small grotto where we always have our prayers every day. Moreover, when I was about 5 years old, I was already eligible to recite morning and night prayer and grace before and after meal. These are the stepping stones for my Christian faith which I credit my parents for their support and sacrifices. When growing up I started practicing the faith and came to understand my role and responsibilities as a Christian.

I began my education career in 2002. I did my preparatory year for two years and in 2004, I proceed to the primary level which lasted for eight (8) years. During those years, I did not have any intention or desire of becoming a priest. My goal was to become a doctor in the future. However, in 2012 I was graced to be selected to a boy's Catholic secondary school run by the Christian brothers. I was happy to be with boys because I was thinking that studying with girls will distract me from my studies in terms of making friendship. I don't know if someone will like me but this was my thought at that time, and I believe it worked out very well. Additionally, I do have time to talk with Jesus every day to address my needs, worries, problems and difficulties to him. In contrast, I saw prayer as my strength and courage towards my studies and for sure I survived the battle. However, during my final year in 2015, there was a group of seminarians going around the school, making vocation promotion and also they got interested candidates for the "COME AND SEE PROGRAM" in the seminary. They came to our school and gave their vocation talk to us and also asked for interested students. When I was hearing them talking about the vocation to the priesthood, I was interested, but I ignored it. Yet, there was something inside me like a force which was pushing me to overcome that ignorance and to give a try. Finally, I put my name as a candidate for the program in the seminary and in every weekend we would go to the seminary to attend the programs. As I have already mentioned, it was my final year, and so I did my final exams. After the exams, my mind was convinced that I would become a priest, regardless of the pressures from my fellow colleagues and relatives. It was a big surprise for them because they couldn't believe the choice that I made. Also, I was confused because the priesthood vocation was neither in my thoughts nor my goal, but I accepted it as God's will. I do believe in these two phrases that say, "God has the last say" and "God writes straight on the crooked lines".

I went home and spent the summer holiday with my parents and relatives. Nevertheless, I received many criticisms and challenges about the choice that I made, but through my parents' prayers, support, and encouragement I gained courage to resist them. However, on the first Sunday of January 2016, I got my acceptance letter from the seminary. For me, it was a moment of grace and happiness which I thanks God for it. At last, the day came when I entered into the life of the seminary. I couldn't imagine the atmosphere of the seminary campus. The place was so quiet and peaceful that I felt God's presence so close to me and the environment also was conducive for prayer and meditation. I was happy to be in the seminary and confident that I had made the right choice in life. Even though some of my friends and even my girl friend put pressure on me to choose other career, I was unconvinced. I would always tell them that "if it is God's will, let it be done. I am just responding to his invitation to fulfill what he had planned for me." And so, I journey on with my seminary life, studying vocation discernment to prove whether God really calls me to become a priest. After my two years of discernment I was sure about what is it that God wants from me. Also I came to realise that, many time I always ask the wrong question "what do I want to become in the future?" which is so selfish and making myself unavailable to God's call. Instead, this is the right question which every Christian faithfuls should ask themselves with: "What does God wants me to become?" This question helps me to make a good discernment of my vocation up until now.

I am now in my second year doing philosophy in the seminary and I'm enjoying the seminary life. I did not need anything or regret the choice that I made as I have mentioned. I only ask God to be with me always and guide me through my formation here in the seminary. Lastly, bear in mind that I am still on the long journey and my final destination is still covered with fog and mist. I don't know whether the road is straight or steep. Therefore, my intention was to help me in prayer so that I may persevere through and as I have said; if it is God's will or not, it is his plan, not ours, and it is for us is to participate only in his works.