

## MY VOCATION STORY. RUSSELL BATERI.

I will start with some information about myself. Well, my first name is Russell and my surname is Bateri. I was born on the on the 21st of March, 1995, at the Vunapope General hospital. My name Russell was given to me by one my father's workmates from England whom he was working with at Boroko Motors. My father is a mechanic and my mother was a primary school teacher. Our family is made of six members, including the parents. We are four siblings in which there are two boys and two girls. We also adopted one of our cousins, and now she is part of our family which now adds up to seven members. I came from Malmal village in West Pomio Mamusi Local Level Government in the Pomio District, East New Britain Province.

Because of my parents occupations I spent some of my childhood days in Gazelle. I went to school in the year 2001 .When I was small I had a great passion for playing rugby; I was inspired so by Marcus Bai. At this time Marcus Bai was in the spotlight in the NRL, so I was very absorbed by rugby and said one day I will play rugby like Marcus Bai. Every afternoon I would play rugby with friends. I have very bad temper also .One afternoon I was playing with friends and they were winning against us, and then one of them was teasing me. I got up and bashed him up. My brother reported me to my parents and they belted me up and told me to stop that but still I can't control myself. There were a couple of times I lost control of myself and did very cruel things to my friends and also in our house.

### I. Family Background.

My family is a happy Christian family. It consists of seven members, five siblings and our parents. Actually it was four siblings and the other member was a cousin sister who was adopted while we still kids. Amongst the five there were only two boys, of which I am the younger one and the others are girls. I related well with them and we help, love, respect, and care for each other. When we were still kids my sisters hated me because of my cruelty and aggressiveness to them. But as grew older I changed.

I am the second born in the family. Our adopted sister is the same age my elder brother. My brother is currently working in the Drina oil palm as supervisor. He completed two years of motor vehicle mechanics training in Vunabosco Agro-Technical Secondary School in 2015. One of my sisters is in secondary and the other is in primary. My family members have contributed too much to my formation first and fore most in the family especially in my growing up. As I reflected about our family I thought that I am the one that will be given up for God. My brothers and sisters can study and live their lives. Our family is peaceful and always happy. My parents loved and understand each other very much. They never fight each other like other couples do. They are always at our sides every time, meaning they are providence and comfort for us from our pains and struggles in life. They always wanted us to be good people and so they taught us, tried to be good examples to us. They are always trying to be best role models to us and make sure we are happy and satisfied.

My family is just an average family when we speak about finance. We had nothing much in terms of properties. My mother is just a primary teacher and my father is working as a driver and mechanic of the district alongside with a little business that helps to sustain our family financially. My father is the elder in the community and everyone respects him very much. My mother also is the eldest in her family. Both my parents' clans are major clans in my area.

My family and relatives support me much in terms of advice and fees to make sure I am in the seminary. My family is an active Catholic family. Both my parents families are strong Catholic parents. I grew up in different parts of East New Britain and therefore I knew a little bit about different cultures. My childhood was spent in different areas in Gazelle and my adolescence in Pomio. All this helps me to experience the life of different cultures and ways of life.

## MY EDUCATION.

I started schooling when I was five years of age and that was in 2002. I attended play school and then the following year started my proper or formal education. My elementary schooling was all completed in Warangoi Elementary where my mother was a teacher in the primary school. From there we moved back home to our homeland, Malmal where I completed all my primary schooling. That was in 2004 until 2010. From Makean primary I was selected to Palmalmal High School. I did grade 9 and 10 and that was in 2011 and 2012. Successfully

completing grade 10, I was able to make to grade 11. I got good grades in my final exam. After competing grade twelve in 2014, I did not make it through to the tertiary level. I stayed at home and at the end of 2015 I applied to the diocese of Rabaul and they accepted me. In 2016 I began my vocational journey of discernment. I did propeadeautic in Rapolo Sacred Heart Major Seminary and last year, 2018, I did my spiritual year in Madang St.Fidelis Seminary, and here am I this year in Bomana Holy Spririt Seminary to continue to search and try to find God's will in my life.