

The Reflection on My Formation in the Seminary, '2009 - 2020'

Hello, my name is Robert Waiek from the diocese of Wewak, East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea.

As we all know, a vocation is a call for everyone. For some of us, we have been chosen from the group of many to study and undergo the formation in preparation to become a holy priest in the future. In regards to the vocation towards priesthood, I see that many are called in the beginning to study in the seminary, but few allow themselves to be chosen. I experienced this with some of my classmates with whom we have been together in St Fidelis and also in Good Shepherd Seminary where they were decided to leave the seminary program.

Thus, I begin my formation when I did my study at St. John Mary Vianney minor seminary in Vanimo. For four (4) years I was staying there, doing my grade 9 - 12 and that was in 2009 - 2012. While in the minor seminary, I learned many good things regarding the formation that helped me to discover more about the vocation which I have. After completing my grade twelve, I went to St Charles Borromeo major seminary in 2013 for another formation called 'come and see' which I stayed there for a year.

As months passed and the New Year 2014 began, I went to St. Fidelis Seminary in Madang for another formation program. There in St. Fidelis, I stayed for another two years and for the first year (2014), I went through some studies as an introduction to philosophy and other courses that are taken in the major seminary like Good Shepherd and Bomana. Thus in 2015, I did my spiritual year as another formation that helped me a lot, like my personal relationship with God, others, nature and with myself.

The formation continued to the village during holidays and back to the seminary after holidays and I opened a new page of studies. It was 2016 that I went to Good Shepherd Seminary for my philosophical studies. There, it took me three years and that was in 2016 - 2018 and at the end I graduated with a Diploma and Advanced Diploma in Philosophical Studies. Thus it was a blessing for me, and I really appreciated what the Good Shepherd Seminary had offered to me.

However, the formation continues and last year 2019, I did my pastoral as part of the program for me to experience myself by socialising with different group of people in the parish. The pastoral was very good in the sense that I was able to meet with different groups of believers by implementing activities that was suited to their level of understanding. For example, a retreat for the different religious group in the parish; and also conducting a music course for the youths of the parish. The different activities were carried out purposely to build the interest of individual's faith in the local church.

A month passes and the New Year begins and I see that the good Lord already opened a new page for me, and that is Bomana Seminary. So for me to study here is not a mistake because I see that the vocation is the living process. Because I believed that the good Lord knows already my thoughts, my intention, and my interest, therefore He prepared everything ahead of me. I am happy to be here in the Holy Spirit Seminary to complete my three years of theological study and later on to become a priest if God wants me.