

My Vocation Story

I, Dottie, was born in Oinala village along the bayside opposite to Alotau town at a peaceful and quiet place on a bright morning of 27 October 1997. I was born the fourth of nine siblings of Dominic Jack and Annastacer Dauglas. The birth was a difficult one. My mother had suffered greatly for some hours, so they rushed my mother and me to the general hospital for further medical assistance, but at the end we were in good condition, very beautiful and lively. After two months I was baptized at Sacred Heart of Jesus parish chapel Ealeba {Daio} as a member of Roman Catholic Church. Growing up as a child, I liked to play outdoor games and other activities with my neighbors and I became one of the popular children in the community. Moreover I had suffered from a number of serious illnesses. I was stuck with severe pneumonia that led to epilepsy. My family believed the case to be hopeless but another doctor managed to save me. I was closely confronted with death in different occasions in my life.

The first period of my life when I came to encounter God was when I was twelve years old doing my grade four. All the teachers and the board of governors regarded our class as the worst behaved and naughty class in the school. Even during the board meeting all the parents gathered together in front of my mother. They said all the bad things that I had been doing in the school. That made my mother cry. Then a lady from the side told my mother to say something good about me. Then she announced to all the parents that one good thing about my son is he is obedient. Only that moment it changed my mindset and made me wonder what shall I do to make my mother happy.

However while planning, my aunty who was a youth coordinator came and told me to attend the one week vocation seminar at Christ the King Parish Samaria. However I did not know what was it all about yet, so I said yes. As the vocation week approached I prepared my things and attended the seminar. When I arrived at the church ground I was really excited and filled with joy meeting all kinds of fellow youths from other parishes around Alotau Diocese. It was really an extra ordinary week for me. I participated well in all organized activities in that seminar. On Friday of that week at five o'clock in the evening we had a solemn adoration for vocations. Before the benediction they stood across beside the altar and announced if anyone of you want to become a priest, brother or sister, come and write your name on the cross. While kneeling I felt a very strong thought came to my mind again and again, so slowly I walked up and wrote my name on the cross, the last person. Moreover, after I completed my grade 12 at Sacred Heart Secondary School at Hagita in the following year 2018 on the feast of presentation of child Jesus in temple on the 2nd February I entered the come and see program at St. Hannibal Discernment Center. Then I went to St. Fidelis Minor Seminary in Madang for propaedeutic and spirituality formation, and here I am at Holy Spirit Seminary.

Therefore as a seminarian there is nothing much interesting to me other than following the footsteps of Christ, who called me to this kind of life. I am not yet too sure how to do it, or what lies ahead of me, but I believe that in time everything will be clear for me. I belong to the Lord and am willing to follow His plan for me.