

Samuel Noglai

VOCATION STORY

People have their own vocation stories to tell the world. Their stories would be either good or bad depending on how people interpret or understand. Their discernment story relates to their context of time, background and the situation where they come from. Apparently, their stories give meaning to their relationship with their environment, community, family and the people around them. However, there is always a reason to believe and understand that every ethical choice has to have a reason to justify the end. And also to identify the origin of their desire or motivation. The origin of desire is the first stage of discovering one's call in his or her life, but it is not accomplished until, he or she is ready to say yes with all his/her heart, mind and soul completely.

As far as my memory is concerned; my desire of being a future priest of the Kundiawa Diocese slowly started when I saw priests driving a car to and fro and celebrating the Mass during Sundays. The celebration of the Mass of every Sunday really inspired me. I didn't even know the significance of being a priest, but would just be hoping that one day people will kneel down facing the Holy Altar, and I would be the one celebrating the Lord's Supper as many priests did. Every day in my life, I was growing with extraordinary imagination. Sometimes I pretended to be a priest. I usually used piece of bread and Coca Cola as real host and wine to celebrate with my friends. As time went by, I loved to do it regularly with my friends. And it became part of me. From there my desire of being a priest grew very strong and I even told my parents and my friends about it.

In 2002 when I did grade one in Angagoi Primary, one of the Primary Schools in Chimbu Province, Papua New Guinea, my class teacher asked the students; "What kind of person you want to be after successfully completing your studies?" The students expressed their own thoughts and ideas but I responded and said, "I want to be a priest." All students laughed at me, but I seriously said, "This is my childhood desire, and you don't have the power to stop me." The crowds went silent and started to call me Padre wherever they saw me.

But, after I started my Secondary education in 2010, too many destructions affected my life. In the midst of those difficulties and destructions, I didn't lose my heart of being a priest. Though I had been attached with materialism from 2010 to 2013, I had a regular contact with my Vocation Director of Kundiawa Diocese, Fr. Peter Noglai, and also consecrated myself to the immaculate heart of Mother Mary. And also it was a challenging moment for me, when my father died. Everything seems to turn upside down. I was not accepting his death, but as time went by I came to accept it.

In 2013, I was accepted to do my first year propaedeutic for the following year, 2014. I was floating in the world of imagination. I thought that I was already a priest, because I thought that many years of longing were finally accomplished.

But when I did my first year propaedeutic in 2014 at Saint Fidelis Seminary, I realized that the journey was too long for me. My mind continuously created division in my heart. Through the advice of the Spiritual Director, Fr. Cyril, and the OFM Sisters I was given hope. Sister Helen said, "You are a chosen one among the millions. God does not blindly choose you, but He knows your capability and your potential. He has a purpose for you; therefore he chooses you to be his own. Never grow tired, because he is not tired of you. He is always there for you, so always keep in touch with him in praying the rosary and the Eucharistic celebration."

From there I told myself, though the destination is too long, I will give my best time and effort despite challenges until I reach my destination. Here I am and I am more than happy to continue my priesthood studies until the day comes.