

VOCATION JOURNEY

I am Mathew Timbalu, originally from St. Conrad's Pureni Parish of Mendi Diocese in Hela Province. I was born on the 25th of May, 1979, and baptized on the 13th of December, 1979. I was named after Fr. Mathew Gross OFM CAP, an American Capuchin Priest who was the second pioneering Parish Priest. My dad has two wives, of which I am the eldest of three (a male and a female) from the first wife, and the second wife has given birth to seven kids but the two first born boys died at early age. At the present I have total of seven siblings (3 male and 3 females).

I completed grades 1-6 in St. Conrad's Pureni Primary School and did grades 7-10 at St. Joseph's Tari High School. I entered St. Fidelis Minor Seminary in Madang Province and did the Philosophy Studies at Good Shepherd Regional Seminary near Banz in Jiwaka Province. In 2007 I did a pastoral year, but I left the seminary program in the same year. In 2008 I completed the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social and Religious Studies in the Divine Word University. In 2010 I was working with the Melanesian Institute in Goroka. In 2011 I completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Education from the University of Goroka. From 2012-2020 I was teaching in various schools in Hela Province, Central Province, and the National Capital District. It was last year (2020) during the MAFFITI DAY in Don Bosco Technical School that I made a final decision to return to the seminary program.

After the past fifteen years of teaching, studying, and the pastoral engagement I finally joined the Archdiocese of Port Moresby. This year I am doing Theology one, and I came to a realization that my story perfectly fits well with the famous story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-23). I see myself as the prodigal son who is on his way his way to the father. I am so grateful that His Eminence Cardinal John Ribat is like the father of the prodigal son who embraced his son with much joy and paternal love. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit Seminary formators and the staff (both academic and non-academic) of Catholic Theological Institute are like the father's slaves who also significantly contributed in jubilation and celebration of the son's return. Now, I am feeling at home and focusing on the holistic formation in the seminary.

Summary of Faith and Education

Birth	25-05-1979
Baptism	13-12-1979
Communion	23-12-1992
Confirmation	06-10-2001
Acolyte	18-03-2007
Primary School	1991-1996
High School	1997-2000
Minor Seminary	2001-2002
Philosophy Studies	2003-2006
Pastoral Year	2007
Divine Word Uni.	2008
MI Research Officer	2010
University of Goroka	2011
Teaching Career	2012-2020

Thank you so much.

MATHEW TIMBALU