

VOCATION STORY

I am Danny Tokapip a philosophy 1 student from the Diocese of Bougainville. Our Lady of Good Counsel Kuraio, which is located in the western part of Bougainville island, is my parish. My parish priest is Fr. Michael Tamunara, and my bishop is Dariusz Kaluza MSF. This is my second time to be in Port Moresby and the first time to be in the Holy Spirit Seminary. It is a new environment to me, and I feel at home because I have many friends from other parts of Papua New Guinea, and I love being here in H.S.S and studying in Catholic Theological Institute Bomana (C.T.I).

I come from a good Catholic Christian family. Originally my mother was from East New Britain and my father was from Bougainville. Both my parents were teachers, but now they are both retired. We are five in the family, I am the third born and the only boy in the family while the rest are girls. Three of my sisters got married already, while my last born sister is still in college doing her third year of studies.

I was born on the 20th of March 1992 at Nonga General Hospital in Rabaul and completed all my schooling years in East New Britain Province, from elementary up to secondary. I attended my primary school years in Rakunai 2003 to 2008 and secondary school at St. Mary's (Vuvu) Vunakanau from 2009 to 2012. After completing grade 12, I was selected to Madang Technical College, taking up painting and sign writing. But before receiving my offer from Madang Technical College, I was accepted by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) to continue my formation the following year at Vunapau. I didn't consider that too much because I fantasized about traveling and experiencing or seeing other places. So I took the offer on going to college and also just to see the beautiful Light House of Madang. After completing two years I did not get a job due to less job opportunity, or maybe it was God's plan to be like that.

I went back home and just helped out with my family. Being at home I started involving myself with the parish youths in helping out in parish activities and also in my local community. In doing so I started getting inspired by our local parish priest who helped and supported me through in my vocation journey. I was elected in 2015 as the parish youth president and the following year I was selected to be part of the 20 youths of Bougainville attending the Youth Convention in Port Moresby, DBTI. It was a great experience for me that I will never forget in my life.

In 2016 I wrote to the Vocation Director of Bougainville Diocese expressing my interest and in 2018 I joined the Come and See program under the watchful care of late Fr. Michael Bora. In 2019 I entered the seminary doing a propaedeutic year at Sacred Seminary Rapolo in Rabaul from 2019 to 2020 under my rectors Fr. John Bosco Auram, the current bishop of Kimbe Diocese, and Fr. John A Cabrido SDB in 2020. The following year 2021 I did my spiritual year in Good Shepherd Seminary, Jiwaka province and this year I am in the Holy Spirit Seminary, Bomana, doing my philosophical studies in C.T.I. I thanked the Lord for the gift of vocation and for journeying with me as I encounter Him more in my everyday life. Thank you very much. God bless.

By: Danny TOKAPIP