

Lawrence TUMAE, Bougainville Diocese

My Vocation Story

I was given the name Lawrence by a German priest, Fr. Lawrence Beerman, when he baptized me and told my parents that I would become a priest. My childhood and primary school days were spent with priests as my mother was working as a nursing officer at one of the Catholic agency health centers. The priests taught me how to pray the rosary and serve as an altar boy. I never missed the morning and evening prayers. As I was growing up, my feeling of becoming a priest developed.

When I was doing my grade (10) ten, I applied to St. Peter Channel Minor Seminary Ulapia to continue my grades 11 and 12. My mother did not agree with me as I was the first born in the family. I had four (4) smaller brothers. She wanted me to further my education in a National High School and get into a university, get a job and help look after my brothers. I was disturbed, but since I respected her I obeyed. I went to a National High School and eventually to a University and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Education. In those times, my feeling of becoming a priest was still there. I was very much involved in church activities when I was at the university.

After graduating, I taught in Catholic secondary schools. I helped look after my siblings till they completed their education and got jobs. The feeling of becoming a priest became stronger. I felt that there was something more that I must get in my life. This urge prompted me to ask my parents the second time to go for seminary studies. This time I was successful. I joined the "Come and See" in 2017. This year is my first year at the Holy Spirit Seminary.