

My Vocation Story

I want to begin my vocation story with this famous saying: "As many are called but few are chosen." I am one of those of many who have been called by God but who are striving to be chosen as God planned and willed. I am Emmanuel Koaba from Central province, mainly Kairuku Hiri and Goilala district. Sadly, after I was born, my parents got divorced couple of years later, due to some personal reasons. I was raised by my mum. The life was rough, but she managed to make me smile everyday as a loving mother. Later, she remarried again and God blessed us with a brother and a sister. She was devoted in prayer; therefore we grew up as Catholic Christians.

As years passed I was selected to do my high and secondary level of my education in boarding schools respectively, high school was at Sacred Heart Tapini, and secondary was Iarowari. Life in boarding schools was different from home. I had a quite a rough time in these four years of study. During my final year in 2017 I was kicked out of the school because of my disobedience. Gracefully, I was given an opportunity to do my exams and graduate at the end of the year because I was the best student leader in the school. As a result of my disobedience I did not receive any offer to further my studies.

I was confused and lost, not knowing what to do with my life the following years, until in 2019, when I had an opportunity to spend my summer holidays in Holy Spirit Seminary as a volunteer youth of Holy Name of Jesus parish, Bomana. It was a tradition that every summer youths would volunteer to take care of the seminary during the absence of the seminarians with the Vincentian missionaries (Fr. Marcin, Fr. Jacek and Fr. March). It was a time of grace for me, through which I slowly adapted to the routines and schedules, because of the nature of the place. Daily Eucharistic celebration was everything to me. It really took the place of all my desires, and slowly day by day, brought me closer to God. At first I did not care, but it happened that one early morning around 3 o'clock, I was guarding the place and noticed one of the priests was meditating in front of a crucifix. That changed my life totally. I was saying to myself, wow! And my mouth hung wide open. I was speechless and surprisingly watched him only. It was really quiet and only the sound was the insects I could hear that brings me back to consciousness, and also I could listen to the beat of my heart. Suddenly, I could hear a slow and gentle voice deep down in my heart and mind that was saying, "I want you to be like him and experience whatever he is experiencing." As the days passed I continued to listen to that voice repeating the same phrase in my heart and mind. I did not do anything. Rather I was praying and discerning until the end of the summer. Fr. Marcin Wrobel, CM asked all of us, "If you boys have anything to say to me, come and see me in my office." And so I went and expressed my desire to him, and he processed my application and they (congregation of mission) accepted me as their candidate. I was blind but today I see the light that leads me to knowing God's plans for me.

In 2021, the congregation sent me to Sacred Heart Propaedeutic seminary, Rapola, at Rabaul (East New Britain province). This year, at Holy Spirit Seminary, Bomana, Port Moresby, I am studying philosophy.