

My vocation story started when I was doing my years 11 and 12 at De La Salle Secondary in Port Moresby in 2017-2018 when the youths in our parish were engaged in looking after the Holy Spirit Seminary during summer breaks when the seminarians leave for holidays. Upon completing my year twelve, I wasn't given an offer to further my studies, and a crazy thought came into my mind, and I questioned God, which was not proper, saying, "Lord I did everything you asked for these many years, and you couldn't just do one thing for me." I almost gave up everything, including the youths and personal devotions. I even didn't care much for Sunday mass, but I have to thank my mom, who believed in me, and was there for me through her prayers.

I was one of the youth who was engaged in the program the rector of HSS, Fr. Jacek Tendej CM, called "The Summer Seminarians." It's kind of little bit funny at first, but it turned out to be a discernment program on my own point of view and even the Cardinal and Nuncio knew about this program. We were engaged purposely for security, maintaining the lawn, cleaning of dormitories and helping with liturgy on Sundays for the Catholic faithful. We had weekday mass, adoration, and benediction as seminarians did. That somehow attracted me, and I had those thoughts and feelings starting to rise but kept it to myself. Going towards the summer of 2019, on one Sunday during his homily our parish priest, Fr. Emmanuel Lapaz CM, said something about vocation and said, "If you have many children, offer one to God." Those words moved me and gave me courage to spill everything that I kept within me because we are nine in the family, five boys and four girls and to offer one to God would be such a blessing for the family. Upon praying over it I came to realize that this was my call that God wanted me to be. That is probably why he closed other doors for me.

Summer break came and we were called again to resume our duties as summer seminarians and one night I asked the Vice Rector, Fr. Marcin Wrobel CM, about what I was feeling and that I wanted to join their congregation CM. He was very happy and advised me to write a letter of interest to their vocation director, which I did, and for the whole of 2020 there were three of us having sessions with our parish priest. Then at the end of 2020 summer break and beginning of 2021 we were sent to Sacred Heart Preparatory Seminary in East New Britain for one year. I'm currently doing my Philosophy One studies here at Catholic Theological Institute (CTI).

Out from the Summer Seminarian Program started by the rector of Holy Spirit Seminary in 2017, there are currently six candidates so far in different colleges that are in the formation from summer seminarians to seminarians. One joined The Dominican (OP) which is my small brother; four of us joined The Congregation of Mission (CM) and one is with the Diocese of Port Moresby. We were the pioneers of the summer seminary program, and I pray that this program will continue to help youths to discern their vocation whether it is to priesthood or to married life.

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Philosophy One (1)