

## A Short Story of my Vocation

Let me begin, by introducing myself, first of all and a brief history. My name Sean Charles Mausing, I am from a mixed parentage from the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and Central Province. I am a Certified Community Health Worker, a certification I attained at the St. Gerard Community Health Worker Training School, Veifa'a, Central Province in June 9th 2017. On the 14th August 2017 I was employed by Pacific International Hospital, and started working with the organization.

It was back in 2009 when I was at Badihagwa Secondary School doing my Grade 9, when I had the thought of becoming a priest came to my mind. Actually I received the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2009 at St. Joseph Parish, Boroko. That evening our family invited Fr. John. Auram (Passionate Heart Priest) to have dinner with us. While waiting for the dinner to be served, Fr. John and I had a pretty good conversation. Unintentionally, I asked Fr. John, "How do we become priest". Fr. John, replied, "If you are interested, pray and talk to God about it. And so every time whenever I pray, I usually say, "If it's your will, your will be done."

Then later, 2018, after our night family rosary, when I laid my head down to rest, this thought come to my mind, "If I become a priest, will I save my own soul, or other souls as well." The next morning, I asked my mother about that. She was not too sure about the answer, but she responded, "I think you are saving your family and everyone you associate with." The next day when my mother went to the morning mass, as she usually does every day, she mentioned it to Fr. Elli our parish priest at that time, at Mary Queen of the Pacific Parish, Waigani. Mother, told me, when I came work. She told what Fr. Elli had said, "You are not just saving your family, but the community and everybody." Then Fr. Elli, asked, my mother, "Is he thinking of becoming a priest?" Mother replied, "I think so, Father, because he just asked me out of the blue." Fr. Elli told my mother, "My congregation, the MSP's, we do not take in Papua New Guineans, only Filipinos, but tell him to talk to James. Gorea." Then Mother said, "If you hear his call, harden not your heart," and told me to see Br. James Gorea, who is doing is currently studying in the Philippines. One afternoon, on one of my off days, Br. James came, got me, and we had a late lunch together. We had a great conversation. He told me about his experiences, and shared about his congregation. One inspiring point I picked up was "Harden not your Heart." And my responded in saying, "I will think and pray about it first, and then I will give you my answer.

After three weeks, we met again. And I told him to give me some more time to think and pray about it. Then after a month's time, when we met again the third time. I told, "I am ready," and he said he would check with Fr. Jacek first, to find time available to meet with him. Two days later in the morning, we made our way up to Bomana, Holy Spirit Seminary. Over there, I was introduced to Fr. Jacek, and he interviewed me. Then the other time, I met with Fr. Marcin. He interviewed, finished, and brought me down to meet with Fr. Manny. Since then, I had been going and coming, seeing him.

It come to a stage whereby I lost my late father. I texted Fr. Manny, I will be out of town for some time. I left for home, Torokina, Bougainville, to attend his burial, but unfortunately he was already buried. Coming back from home, I lost all my hope and give up. Down heartedly, I told my mother, "I am not going to become a priest." Then on one of my off days, I went to speak to Fr. Manny about my situation, and I was going through some traditional practice. Also I mentioned to him, "I am not going to become a priest."

A couple of months later I come back, saw Fr. Manny, and to him, "I am ready to become a priest." And he said, "Go back, decide well, and keep on praying." So I have been going and coming, seeing him since then. Anyways, now I am here, so blessed with the Holy Spirit Seminary, studying Philosophy One. I am with the congregation of St. Vincent De Paul, commonly known as Vincentian. On the 4th of January 2020, I resigned from Pacific International Hospital. Even though I was already working and earning, I left work to save souls. Also with the human health work that I was doing, it extremely gave me a better perspective. Whenever reflecting on life, during my private prayer time, whenever I attended masses whenever I am off, I saw things much more clearly. Thank you, my Lord my God, for continuing grace and countless blessings.