

Simon Robert, Vocation Story

My name is Simon Robert, and I am from mixed parentage of Central and Morobe. I am 27 years of age, and I am first born in the seven of us (four girls and three boys). I have been with the Congregation of Mission (Vincentian/Lazarist) for 2 years now, first year at Sacred Heart Propaedeutic Seminary at Rapolo in East New Britain Province and this year first year Philosophy. I completed my studies at Laloki Secondary school in Central Province in the year 2017. My father died when I was four (4) years old, and I was raised by a single mum, a house wife, but also by my uncles.

When I was a youth, I did not go for Mass, and even I don't want to go. My grand mum was a faithful Catholic goer. When Sunday came she would ask me to go but this is my response to her: "Everyone has the choice to make. Don't ask me to go to your church." I did not receive Holy Communion and also Confirmation until when I was 23 years of age in 2017.

When I was a youth I was thinking of becoming a pastor because I wanted to spread the word of God to the lost and suffering and also to help the poor, the needy, the helpless, and children; but that dream of becoming a pastor stopped when I left Kinakon, the first village, and went to Laloki Psychiatric center.

I was not a Catholic, but one day I went to attend a Catholic Mass and saw a priest (Fr. Marcin Wrobel, our current superior) who was with the people just as what I wanted to be (to smell like your sheep and be with them), and I made my decision to convert to the Catholic Church and receive the Sacraments so that it can qualify me to attend the seminary studies and become a priest so that I would do what my heart desires and not my body or others' voices.

To make this decision to become a priest was a very tough choice, especially for me as a young man, but I thank Mama Maria who hears my intentions and answers it with a generous heart and helps me in my the time of my distress, and the greatest to my Best Friend (JESUS CHRIST) who gave himself in the Holy Eucharist so that I may do his Mission in this work. As I see, as a young man I did not make a wrong choice but a right and a very good choice.

I personally called Him best friend is because a best friend can lay his or life just to save his/her friend not his brother or sister. John 15:13-15.