

Name: Jeremiah Tainki

Diocese: Kerema

Vocation story

I was inspired for this life, a life of commitment, by an Australian missionary who was my parish priest.

The late Reverend Father John Flynn was an Australian Missionary from Melbourne sent to serve in Papua New Guinea, particularly in the Diocese of Kerema. He was assigned to St. John De Baptist Parish, Kanabea. He served in my parish and other parishes for more than ten (10) years.

In 2004, I was doing grade four at St. John De Baptist Primary School. On every Friday we normally had school mass. I took part in serving the priest during mass. By serving at mass on Fridays, Sundays, and of course on special feast days, and through observing that priest's fashion for mass and recitation of the prayers during masses, I was inspired. Furthermore, his general lifestyles. Upon seeing these I thought, "I wish I would become like him one day." This strong desire ruled in me. I still can remember, he had given me a rosary leaflet and told me to pray the rosary.

With this desire in mind, I have continued my studies until I had finished grade twelve (12) in 2012. In this range of years, I rarely attended mass and other church activities because of peer influence. But this desire I had was still a driving force in me.

From 2013 to 2019, for almost seven years, I spent all my life back at home, mostly involved in youth groups, and I got influenced by immoral activities driven by a peer pressure. Another turning point and very influential is a frequent desire that came to me, in all the bad activities that I was doing a voice used to come to me, saying "I am the temple of the Holy Spirit." I often questioned myself, "Why am I engaged in bad activities/" It often made me to wonder.

Driven by these two holy fearful desires, "I wish I will be like him (a priest) one day," and "I am the temple of the Holy Spirit," why am I engaged in bad activities?" I applied to the vocation director of Kerema Diocese in 2017. I was accepted to study at St. Fidelis minor seminary in 2019. In 2020 and 2021, I finished propaedeutic studies. I am currently living at Holy Spirit Seminary (HSS) doing the first year in Philosophy Studies at Catholic Theological Institute (C.T.I), Bomana, 2022.