

Sem.: Arre Gugl

## ARRE'S VOCATION STORY

I am Arre Gugl, a seminarian from the diocese of Kundiawa, wanted to write about my vocation story. My vocation story is not the same as that of other seminarians but different. I am an only male child of my parents, and my parents didn't want me to become priest and also I did not have any intention of becoming priest, and also I did not have any idea about going to the seminary, but the Lord sees it differently from our perspective.

The time that I decided to go to the seminary was during one of the RE lessons at Muaina Secondary School. It happened that the vocation director of Kundiawa diocese came to the school and told the Catholic students in the RE class that he was coming here for the boys especially, those who were interested in joining the seminary formation. The interested ones could write to him and would sit for an entry test. When you passed the test, your first year would be in St. Fidelis Seminary - Madang, and he further mentioned that down at Madang there is big land where you can make garden and also the sea is so close that you will also be fishing. The words fishing and gardening made me interested to write to the vocation director, and eventually at around the end of the year I received an envelope in which the content was the acceptance letter for propaedeutic year one at St. Fidelis Seminary. The envelope that I had received was the first that I had ever received in my life. Consequently, my first year in St. Fidelis Seminary was 2014.

As time elapsed I went from St. Fidelis to Fatima - Good Shepherd Seminary; I had developed most skills and insights into priesthood, as did my parents. They insisted that I didn't have to leave the seminary formation but I had to become priest because when we become a priest we will go freely to heaven because what we had been investing in your life you will be using to help the Catholic faithful of Kundiawa diocese. However, there were many trials and temptations that came my way to hinder my vocation, but my parents and myself also managed that I had to suffer and struggle for the priesthood. There were many things that happened to me and my family to make me do away with the call, but I will not mention them here but the biggest is the death of my father when I was preparing for my thesis presentation at Good Shepherd Seminary last year. I went out to the funeral of my father for two days and went back to the Good Shepherd to present my thesis. Behind all those difficulties and temptations I see that I had something that Mother Mary and Jesus sees that will be of great use for the Church in the diocese of Kundiawa and Papua New Guinea, and so they are helping me through that long journey of formation.

Finally this year 2022 is my ninth year of being a seminarian, and I always trust Mother Mary that she will form me to her Son's likeness that one day I will be a diocesan priest of Kundiawa serving the people of God with my whole being. If it was God's will that I wanted to become a priest of my own diocese what else will take me away from it? To live a priestly life is to suffer and be happy in the suffering. I had usually tried to live up to it daily as I entered the Holy Spirit Seminary because here is the final and after here there isn't any but back in the diocese for pastoral to prepare for deaconate ordination. Thanks.