

Faith in the Call: Vocation

For almost all the seminarians or who are already priests, first I am certain that they wrote to vocation directions or bishops and expressed their own interest. That moment, he responded to the inner calling, the vocation. I am unexpectedly called and designated by God.

I have never had a plan to study in seminary or become priest in my life. Never!

My primary plan was to become mechanical engineer. So I started my foundation as an automotive light vehicle serviceman. As qualified automotive light vehicle mechanic, I graduated in 2013 with National Certificates, NC1 & NC2 in Don Bosco Tech-Kumgi.

In 2014, I was very busy in exercising my profession. One day, one of my brothers, Albert Peter wanted to do his entry exam to go for seminary so I drove him to where he was supposed to do his entry exam. As soon as we arrived, Assistant Vocation Director Fr. George Makaja greeted us and gave him exam papers and sent him in to one of the rooms in his house.

Fr. George and I were staying at the corridor and cracking some jokes. After some minutes, Fr. asked me; "Would you like to just have a look at the exam papers?" "Oh, ok. Give me," I responded. I am realizing now that it has been really funny for me! He gave me an exam paper together with a pen and directed me into another room.

In the room, I should have just glanced through, but somehow, I answered many of the questions, but later I realized that I did not have plan for priesthood so I did not complete answering some of the last questions.

After the exam, we went home, and I continued on with my career as an automobile technician. Some weeks later, Fr. George called me and said, "You are accepted to study at St. Fidelis Seminary." I was shocked upon hearing that but with deep breath and unacceptably, I said okay! I didn't sleep properly at that night. My mind and heart were troubled, but I confidently said to myself that I am not going to study in the seminary. Following are the main reasons:

1. I had been faithfully engaged to a young girl,
2. Thinking of parents' and benefactors' resources,
3. Omitting my technical knowledge, and
4. Leaving the family.

About one week before school started, we had a back to school retreat in the parish. During the Bible sharing, somehow I opened this Bible passage; (Jeremiah 1:5). It says "I chose you before I gave your life, and before you were born I selected you to be a prophet to the nations." Automatically all the questions, doubts and troubles in my mind and heart were totally erased. (If it is God's will, this Bible text will be the first reading on my day). I came to realize that God doesn't forsake me. He had a plan for my future, and He chose me from the millions to become His Servant. Within that one week, I swiftly changed my mind and left everything. Then I went to St. Fidelis Seminary for formation studies in 2015 for propaedeutic year one.

After the two years of formation studies, I came to know that God was calling me and choosing me among the millions who are roaming around the streets. From the most neglected and ignorant life, He selected me to follow Him; to fulfill His plan in my life. I reflect on the calls of James and John, the sons of Zebedee, (Mt.4:21-22) "At once they left the boat and their father and followed Him (Jesus)." This Scripture text fits my life and affirms my vocation to become a priest if that will possibly be God's final calling in my life. Therefore, while discerning my vocation in this year 2022 formation studies in HSS/CTI, I want to confidently testify that I don't have doubts about my vocation which is God's Divine Calling to be a Catholic priest in the future to be able to serve God's people in the Diocese of Mendi.

CONCLUSION

Every human being normally has his/her own plans and dreams to be achieved in their lives. It is through the response they are giving to the responsibilities they are accepted to take up. In some cases, God calls people unexpectedly at different places, occasions, times, and situations which are basically according to His own Will/Plan. I am one of them. Hence, such people have great responsibilities to play to accomplish the God's final plan in our life. It is through self-confidence and faith.

God calls the way you are! So we must be able to accept all challenges and difficulties in

our lives to persevere, because these challenges are definitely our strengths which will help us to be a steadfast and successful person. It is a fact that after the rain, there is always sunshine. He has a plan for each of us to be able to prosper in our future not for the disaster as it says in the Book of Prophet Jeremiah Jer. 29:11. Our responsibility is to be faithful in our vocation.

As such, my perseverance through those terrible situations, avoiding sickness and death have helped me recognize and come to know that God was leading me towards His plan for my life. I believe that Jesus Christ Himself is calling me to extend His Priesthood ministry and become a good servant of God to serve His people. All in all, have faith and trust in the Lord that God has a final plan for our life.

Thank you!

God Bless.