

My Vocation Story.

My name is Abel Yimnau, and I come from the Diocese of Vanimo in West Sepik Province. I attended St. Peter's Primary School in 2003, and did my grade one and completed my grade eight in 2010. And in 2011, I was selected to do my grade nine at Lumi High School in 2011 and in 2012 I completed my grade ten. From there I could not go further with my studies, because I did not do well in some of my subjects. So I stayed home for three solid years with my parents and helped them with some work.

But in late twenty fifteen around October I had an opportunity to go and visit my uncle at Vanimo so I went. On one Sunday I went for Mass and I heard a parish priest say there would be a retreat at St. John Vianney Minor Seminary. So after mass I confirmed everything with father, and I went home. But one good thing I would like to say is I never miss a Sunday mass or even if there were no mass I used to attend the Lotu Communion and received the Blessed Sacrament. From there I went to the minor seminary for the retreat. After the retreat, they conducted the interview for those who had an interest in joining the seminary for the upcoming year 2016, so I went for the interview.

After the interview, they told us that, if you're a selected, then we will give your names to your parish priest. So I went home with peace, because it was the best of its kind, that I had attended the retreat with many wonderful talks, inspiration, and insight that really touched my heart. After this, I came and stayed at home. Then in early January 2016, the parish priests sent me my acceptance letter to go to the minor seminary. So I went there and enrolled with forty other students who did our orientation year together. Then in 2018 I completed my grade 12 with nine other brothers.

This is the crucial moment where I decided to apply to one of the conventional institutes, but I said to myself I must make wise decision before leaving. So this took me too long to discern my call, but at last I heard a voice say "continue" so I applied to the bishop, and he accepted me. Then in 2019, I did my propaedeutic year at St. Charles Borromeo Major Seminary, and last year I completed my third year of philosophical studies there as well.

So now currently, I am studying at (CTI) Catholic Theological Institute, Bomana, in the Catholic Archdiocese of Port Moresby. However, in these six years of my seminary studies, I could say I had many experience. For instance, I had to encounter many challenges, suffering, temptations and so on... But I used to say "Lord, it is not my will, but your will," and I do everything with patience, and I wish with the great hope that, through God's providence one day I will archive my quest.