

My Vocation STORY



I remember when I was still quite a small boy not yet attending any schools, I was influenced by one of my family members. At that time he (*Kevin Galman Tolnga*) was doing his formation year in SVD Formation House at Rebimul (Mt: Hagen). However, he told me that to become a priest means to become very rich, because you will have a private car, have a big house, have much money, and eat fancy, expensive, and delicious food everyday, unlike other jobs.

Every day that statement kept coming to my mind over and over and I was interested, thinking that if only I become a priest, I'll be living a luxurious life.

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However, in 2007 while doing my grade four at Banz Elcong Primary School, my dream of becoming a priest started to materialize. And one time six students from the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) came to our school to have a combined fellowship with us, the students and the staff. We had the fellowship and towards the end the UPNG students made an altar call, indeed, inviting students to come up to the front so they would pray over them for whatever dreams each of them wanted to be in the future.

After that they asked each of us what each one really wanted to be. They started from the first person, and when my turn came, I told them that I want to become a priest in the future. I just said it for the sake of saying, but I did not really understand anything about what I had said.

Six years passed, however, and I realized that I have the call for a vocation to the priesthood, and this was confirmed by a dream. I dreamed that, *"It was on a beautiful Christmas morning and all the Outstations were asked to celebrate the Christmas Mass at the Main Station (St. Anselm, Banz). I was there too attending the Mass. After Mass celebration a woman went up to the altar to make an announcement or talk, saying, "Whoever wants to become a priest in the future, can come up in front." In fact, I was really touched with what she has said, because that was really my dream or goal. But the problem was, there were too many people, and I was so scared and nervous to go in front. I waited and suddenly, I saw two of my brothers (Stanley and Christopher) go up to the front. By seeing them, I confidently stood up and went in front too."*

In addition, *"she then asked us a striking question, asking each of us to give our reasons why, young as you are, you want to become a priest?" When my turn came; I replied in a clear firm voice. "I want to become a priest because the harvest is many, but there are not labourers to gather the harvests. Therefore, I want to become a labourer to gather the harvests."* Unfortunately, I was alarmed and roused up from the bed; it was a dream.

So far, it was on Sunday morning, after sharing my dream with my family and youths, I was given a negative response. I was so upset with them. However, we went for *lotu* communion at our Outstation (St. Therese of the Child Jesus). At the end of *lotu* communion, the Catechist made an announcement saying, “*Whoever is interested to join the priesthood or a religious life I have here the application and address for the vocation director, Fr. Robert Nolie. You can come and get it.*” My family and youths were surprised to hear it. That was the time I got the application and address and I started to communicate with him for three solid years (grade ten-twelve).

We did the entry test and I was luckily passed. I was eligible to enter the seminary program at Cup. St. Fidelis Seminary. I did complete my propaedeutic year one, two, and Spiritual Year (2016-18). In 2019-2021, I studied Philosophy at Good Shepherd Seminary. In 2022, I did my pastoral at St. Paul’s Parish; now currently (2023), I am at Holy Spirit Seminary, doing my Theology Two at Catholic Theological Institute (CTI), at Bomana, Port Moresby.

At present, I’m on the right path, and I still have the desire to go on with my spiritual journey.

That is my short vocation story about how I entered the seminary (life) formation. Thank you and God bless.