

My vocation story

I, Philip Aron Ape, would like to share my vocation story, how I felt in my heart to become a priest in future.

When I was a small boy in my third grade, there was an SVD parish priest at a parish which I come from. He had served there for some years, and his term had finished being a parish priest in the parish. At that time, the parishioners bid him farewell, and that moment, when I saw how people cried and bid him farewell, my desire to become a priest has begun.

Then, when I completed my twelve grades, there was a misunderstanding in a conversation between my mum and I. After that one Sunday I was crying by looking a priest celebrated the holy Eucharist. I thought, my desire to become a priest is stopped here, because, my same grades special Catholic students (boys) = those who gave their names - had done the entry test already. It was in 2014, and 2015, I did not secure to any tertiary institution. So in 2015, I came to Port Moresby, to apply for police college. I filled a form, and then I went back home, Jiwaka. Then in 2016, I decided to come back to Port Moresby in the first month, and went to Lae. Then in Lae, I got a serious sickness, which was known as Tiger-Malaria. Next month, I went back home, for my recovery. I went there and, after recovery from illness, I gave my name to a former vocation director, Fr. Robert Nolie, to join the seminary.

I was accepted as an internal candidate among other brothers. Before, when I gave my name to the vocation director as a candidate; my mum got a serious sickness, and that sickness affected me. My mother did not agree for me to go to seminary, and God gave her the sickness as a punishment, so at that time she apologized for not allowing my own desire to go to seminary.

Around September 2016, I did my entry test. And during Christmas, the vocation director told me that I was accepted to go to the minor seminary in Madang. In the second month of 2017, I was enrolled as a seminarian in the seminary.

Then last year, I did my pastoral in one of the parishes in the Archdiocese of Mount Hagen, and now I am here to study for my second theological courses. As for me, I am self-invited to join the seminary. No one forces me to join, but upon my freewill, I chose to take this journey based on my freedom.

Thank you, for your time.

Yours in Christ.

By Sem. PHILIP ARON APE (Th.2)