

Vocation Story of Mathew Yala

I Mathew am Yala from the Archdiocese of Mt. Hagen. I was born on the 25th of March, 1987. I am the fourth born in a family of eight (8) siblings. Unfortunately three children have deceased, and we are left with only five (5). Right now I have only one biological sister. I have grown up in the absence of mother, since she passed on when I did grade five in 2024. Growing up with a single parent is more challenging, but I endured the passions in patience.

Since everything has an attraction, and everyone falls in love with such attraction, my childhood attraction was not about the priest, but it was all about the big host. I was inspired to see the priest consecrate the big host. The first attraction was the color itself. The big white host caught my eyes, and I dreamt about the big white host in my return. The second aspect that caught my eyes was a size of the host. I saw others received the small host but that did not catch my eyes.

The attraction slowly grow in me and I enrolled in catechumen class to receive communion. The local catechist prepared us for first Holy Communion. In some point, I correctly answered questions and was able to know basic prayers, so he appreciated me. I was very happy to receive Communion so I was faithful to catechetical classes. Fortunately, I completed catechetical formation and was ready to receive First Holy Communion. I was happy to receive the white substance that I had admired in my first mass. Unfortunately, the catechist saw that I was not in a reasonable stage to receive first Holy Communion. Therefore he told me to wait until the age of reasoning. I could not describe my feelings. I was very upset and cried all day and night. So many negative thoughts disturbed me, and I was troubled. I decided to go to protestant church, but the attraction was still fresh within me. Finally, I heard a voice inside me. It called me to be calm and prepare to do something better than himself. This extraordinary voice gave me courage and I said in a low voice, I will become a catechist like himself.

As time elapsed, I forgot the promise and planned to become a teacher. However, the desire to receive big communion was still burning in me. Therefore, after grade 12, I wrote to the vocation director to join the seminary. Fortunately I passed the entry exams and entered Saint Fidelis Seminary, Madang, in 2018. I successful completed three years of formation and went for philosophical studies in Good Shepherd Seminary, Banz. I successfully completed another four years, and now I am here in the theological institution.

The interest of receiving the big host is imprinted in my soul, and it is really hard to remove. Even though I entered seminary and know that a piece of communion contains Soul, Body and Divinity of Jesus, I still have the feeling to receive big host every day. Whenever I received the big host that is my happiest day. This attraction is still fresh in me and the desire of receiving the big communion host is burning like quenching fire. This catches my attention, and today I am in the seminary, hoping to sacrifice the big host on the altar to nourish and to feed the people of God.

I thank the catechist because through his challenge, I am here in the seminary to become a priest to celebrate the mass and offer a sacrifice on the altar.