Greetings,

I, Simone Masanga – a fifth year seminarian for the diocese of Palmerston North, would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you my new family and friends here in this lovely diocese of Palmerston North, who have been in many ways helping and supporting me over the last four and a half years in my formation to priesthood. After praying, pondering and reflecting with Bishop Charles and the staff of the national seminary (Holy Cross Seminary) here in Aotearoa New Zealand, I have decided to discontinue my formation to priesthood due to the fact that I need more time to work on my own human formation first. If I am upsetting any of you with this information, I ask that you please pray for me and still support and accept me as one of your family. I honestly do not know how long am I going to be outside of priesthood formation for but what I do know for sure at this stage is that I, passionately, still want to become a diocesan priest for this lovely diocese of Palmerston North. My desire for priesthood is still strong and my heart is still wide open to God’s calling to priesthood. I am kindly asking all of you my new family and friends to please continue praying for me as I leave the priesthood formation. That I can do whatever it takes to be successful and fully confident with my own human formation, and be able to come back and continue my priesthood formation. Please note that you are all in my daily prayers and I am hoping that one day in the future I will be back to continue my priesthood formation and be a priest and servant for God’s people.

Love and prayers,

Simone Masanga