

My name is Peterson Mutuwai, and I am from Pou village in Aitape West Coast in Sandaun Province. In my family we were two boys and I am the second born in the family. My elder brother got married, and he has six children, and my parents were still alive.

My desire of becoming a priest began when I was five years old. One time I saw a European priest who came to my village for the Sunday service. I didn't know who he was, so I asked my parents about that white man. Their response was that he was a priest - a man of God. I really admired him because of his white skin colour and thought that I would become a priest so I could have a white skin colour like him too. I then got up and told my parents that I would like to become a priest as well. They just listened to me only without telling me anything more regarding the life of a priest.

When I attended primary school and high school, that desire of becoming a priest disappeared from me. After completing grade 8, I stayed home for couple of years, and that desire of becoming a priest occurred in my mind again. With that desire I have decided to enroll in a code centre to do my grade nine and ten in order to find some ways to study and become a priest.

I have attended Bien Primary School from grades one to six. I did my grade one in 1992 and completed grade six in 1997 and was selected to attend Aitape High School to do grades seven and eight. I did my grade seven in 1998 and completed grade eight in 1999 in Aitape High School in Sandaun Province. Unfortunately I was not selected to continue on to grade nine; therefore I had to stay home for few years. Some years later I was enrolled in a code centre to do grades nine and ten, and that was in 2002 to 2005. After completing grade ten I wrote a letter of interest to the rector of St. John Vianney Minor Seminary in Vanimo expressing my desire to become a priest. My letter was considered, and I was accepted to do grades 11 and 12. That was in 2006 and 2007. After completing grade 12, I applied to continue on with Religious Studies in St. Charles Borromeo Diocesan Major Seminary up in Lote Vanimo Sandaun Province. My application was successful, and I proceed on with my studies for a period of two years in this seminary in 2008 to 2009. I was studying in St. Charles Borromeo Diocesan Major Seminary under the diocese of Vanimo to become a diocesan priest. After two years of study I decided to withdraw from the seminary and stay home for some years. I wrote to the bishop of Aitape diocese expressing my desire to come back to my own diocese, and he accepted me. And he sent me to Good Shepherd Seminary in Banz Jiwaka Province to complete my religious studies. That was in 2012 and 2013. After completing religious studies for a period of two years, I graduated with a diploma and advanced diploma in religious studies. I was doing my pastoral for a year in the parish last year, and currently I am doing my theology study in Catholic Theological Institute in Bomana. I am doing theology one this year and hoping to complete two more years as time unfolds.