

## CHRIS AMUN – MY VOCATION STORY

"If you want to follow me, leave everything behind, carry your cross and follow me". These are the beautiful words of Christ telling me to leave behind things that are not necessary, things that will become obstacles in getting my focus right on Christ alone. It was a struggling journey for me to let go of all my weaknesses and set my focus freely and straight with right consciousness on this journey to priesthood. "Success is nothing; failure is not fail; it is the courage to continue". This is the motto that is always in my mind and heart when faced with difficulties in my seminary's journey to priesthood. And it matters most in my life. However, the interest of my journey to priesthood started when I was 14 years of age doing my grade three. It was an inspiration and encouragement from Mark Kodong, a catechist who was my maternal uncle. He first of all introduced me into the life of the Legion of Mary devotional group for a couple of years, and appointing me to lead the junior Legion of Mary in pastoral activities at home. And it was very much helpful in building up my spiritual life in God.

I continued on with my studies until 2001, when I entered Saint Peter Chanel minor seminary in East New Britain to do my grades eleven and twelve. After my secondary studies, I had been accepted by Archbishop Emeritus Karl Hesse to do my Priesthood studies at Sacred Heart Inter-Diocesan Major Seminary Rapolo, still in East New Britain. As my motto stands; success is nothing; failure is not fail; it is the COURAGE to continue. I encountered many great challenges or battles within me and between my life and the life to the priesthood. I tried my very best to live a life that is required of me as a seminarian, but I failed many times. Lots of weaknesses had to be dealt with before completely and freely answering the Lord's call to priesthood. Being suspended three times out of the seminary, I did not give up. My suspensions helped me a lot, and I come to realize the strengths of my weaknesses, solving them within my own self and get my purpose of being in the seminary right. I believe that strength and courage to continue on in life is in God alone. And now I am here continuing on at the last stage of my seminary life to get it complete at Bomana Catholic Theological Institute.