

## Vocation story

Name: Matthew Kovok AGE: 27

DOB: 15 May 1989

Province: Kimbe, West New Britain Province District: Cape Gloucester

In my family we are five, 3 boys and 2 girls, and I. I am the fifth born in the family, but I was brought up as an adopted child in the family of one of my uncles. So in this family we are six: 4 girls and 2 boys. Anyway, I started my education in 1996 in Salkei Primary school doing grades 1-8. Passing from there I continued in Ponini Cath Agricultural secondary school in 2014-2015, doing grade nine and ten.

In 2016 I went to Vuvu Secondary School in Rabaul, East New Britain Province and continued doing my grade 11-12. Because of the some sad news from the family that I had lost my father, my education almost stopped, but with trust I continued until third term holiday. When I came back to continue for last term I was caught because of financial problems concerning school fees; I could not make it. Furthermore, the principle sent me for two weeks looking for school fees, but there was nothing to pay for the fees, because first of all, the family I am living with them are my wantoks and some of my relatives. From there I decided to go back to the village and stay with my parents for one solid year 2007. One of the biggest difficulties I faced when I was in school was financial problems; because my family are simple subsistence farmers living in the village, and they get income through goods they sell in the market, and these are just not enough to help us in our school fees. On the another hand, the only crops that help most in our areas to help make support to the people are copra and cocoa. These are the two main crops, but the help more in our educations and how we live our lives as simple subsistence farmers.

Anyway, when I stayed with my parents in the village I started to work for myself to collect my school fee. In 2008-2009 I made up my mind to go back to school, so I entered Kimbe Secondary to completed my grade 11-12. In 2010 my desire of becoming a Priest was so strong that I started to write, with the help of my parish priest Fr. Alois Kaumu, who accompanied me in my interest to write to the vocation director. In 2010, the same year, I was accepted and asked to attend the "come and see programme," and in 2011 the bishop sent me to do my formation year at Lanuzel Formation Center. In 2013-2014 I went to do my first year of philosophy at Rapolo Major Seminary year one and two, In 2015, the bishop sent me to St. Fidelis (Madang) to do my spiritual year, and In 2016 I was asked again by my bishop to complete my studies in Bomana for my third year of religious studies. I would like to thank my bishop for his positive response to help me in my studies and may God bless him, as a good shepherd to guide his people.