

Markus Peter is my name, and I am from Kundiawa, Simbu Province, which is in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea. I was sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Kundiawa to study for the priesthood. Thus here I would like to give a brief history about myself and my life in the seminary formations, and my experiences.

I come from good Catholic background. My family members were good Catholic faithful who participated actively in all the church organised activities in the parish as well as the diocese. I used to be a musician in my small outstation. Furthermore, being brought up in a Christian environment, the desire of coming to the seminary to study for priesthood was very strong in me. So after completing grade twelve (12), I applied to come to the seminary and was accepted. I entered the seminary and began my priesthood journey.

I begin my priesthood studies, the propaedeutic year in 2010 at St. Fidelis Minor Seminary in Madang. It was a period of two years' formation, propaedeutic and spiritual year.

My first experience in seminary life and formation was very tough and challenging. Coming straight from the common or ordinary life style to fit into the academic life was challenging. I tried my very best to adapt to the system in terms of study pressures, prayer life, and manual work, waking up early in the morning and so on. After a month I slowly adapted into the system.

After completing two years at St. Fidelis minor seminary (2010 - 2011), I was sent to Good Shepherd Seminary, Banz, Jiwaka province to continue my studies there. It was the period of three years formation.

I have studied philosophical courses for two years and an introduction to theology, pastoral formation, church history, and other related subjects such as introduction to the liturgy, the Bible, Latin, church history etc. These were also taken during my third year. All these subjects were very helpful, and I enjoyed taking them, but at the same time it was tough and challenging. Nevertheless, I managed to be at the expected rate of the academic requirements sets up by the seminary.

I graduated with a diploma and an advanced diploma in religious studies at the end of the third year. Thus, my interest of becoming priest was still burning in me, so after completing three years of formation I applied to my diocese for pastoral engagement. With the recommendation of the rector and other teaching staff, my bishop allowed me for the pastoral experience last year.

All of last year, 2015, I was engaged in the parish for pastoral experience. In my pastoral, I have encountered so many challenges. But I managed myself to survive. The experiences of desolation and consolation has helped me to grow into maturity. Despite the challenges, the Lord has helped me. Somehow with his grace I successfully completed my pastoral in the expected time. With the recommendation of my bishop and vocation director, and my personal interest of becoming priest motivating me, I applied to continue my studies here in Catholic Theological Institute, Bomana and was accepted. So now I am doing my first year of theology.

All in all, I would like to express my sincere thanks and deep gratitude to my benefactors and those who support me in my formation. I thank my bishop, vocation director, the faithful Christians, the formatters, and my own family, especially my parents. Please continue to pray for me so that I may be able to respond to God's call. May the good Lord richly bless you.