

Clarence Amut is my name. I am from the Archdiocese of Rabaul and the parish which I belong to is St. Joseph Napapar. I come from a family of three boys, and I'm the first born. My mother is from East New Britain and my father is from New Ireland province. My parents' names are Gabriel Amut and Joanna Moni. My mother was a nurse, and my father was a driver. Unfortunately I did not grow up with them but with my grandparents of my mother's side. I started my education at St. Joseph Primary at Napapar doing grades one to eight from 1997 to 2004. Then I attended St. Mary's Vuvu Secondary School from 2005 to 2008 doing grade nine to twelve. However, after three years I went to Lannuzel Formation House in 2012 for one year and then continued on to the Sacred Heart Seminary, Rapolo doing RS 1 to RS 3 from 2013 to 2015. Last year, 2016, I did a Spiritual Formation Year at Putput, and this year 2017 I'm here at the Holy Spirit Seminary doing theology 1 here at CTI Bomana.

Here is how my vocation all started. One Sunday morning I went with my grandparents for mass as usual, and while the mass started I saw the priest came out of the sacristy, and I really admired the way he walked out to the sanctuary. I told my grandparents that I'd like to be a priest later, and they were surprised to hear that from a kid who was about four to five years old. They just responded by saying that I have to study hard and pray at all times and attend mass always. Then I started going to school and one my class teachers came and asked me my future career, and I replied by the word priest. When I was still in the primary doing grade six, my mother passed away, and that caused me to stay out for the third and fourth term of the year but the following year, 2003, I continued on doing grade seven. During my primary school days I followed my grandmother's foot step and was an active Junior Legion member and I was elected as the secretary for the presidium six years.

After completing grade 12 I received two acceptance letters, one from St. Benedict Teachers College, and the other was from the Archbishop to go to Lannuzel, but my relative capitalized my life during that time and forced me to be a teacher, but I didn't desire it. They also told me that I was very young to enter the seminary, but only my grandparents were very supportive, and they told me to follow my heart. When things happened to me, I ran away from Rabaul and travelled by ship to Lae where I stayed with my uncle and was employed by Lae Biscuit Company. I worked with this company for three years and also two MSC priests asked me to live with them and to help out. Then around November 2011 I applied back to the archdiocese and the following year I received a call from the vocation director at the work place and was told that I was accepted. At that moment, I wrote a resignation letter because I was very happy and felt that I was at peace.

Then in 2013 during the first semester break I went to visit my grandmother who was sick and was wishing to see me. When she saw me, tears started flowing down her eyes and she gave advice; also she told me to follow my heart and be firm and pray the rosary always. The next day she passed away, and I was very sad, but I treasured her words, one of which she said to me that her passing away shouldn't be an excuse for me to leave the seminary but I had to follow the call from God. The following year, 2014, at the same time my grandfather did the same thing that my grandmother did earlier. For both of their funeral masses and burials I was there. However after their passing away my relative who was against me started supporting me in this journey of faith toward priesthood.