

MY VOCATION STORY

When I was a little boy, I would always see priests, brothers and sisters in their religious dressing and would always admire them. They inspired me and when I was in my high school days I decided to join the priesthood, but alas, my marks did not allow me to go to the minor seminary. That time the desire to be priest was already firm in me so when I applied and was rejected my heart was broken. Nothing ever stopped me from pursuing that aspiration to be priest. Even I was thinking if I cannot make it to the priesthood at least I could become a religious brother. But anyway I ended up being a prayer leader (catechist) even without any formal catechetical background on pastoral work. The bishop appointed me caretaker of my own community. For almost two years, the desire to be a priest was still afresh in me despite my youth adventures into different pleasures in life. In 2007 the World Youth Cross came to PNG and came all the way to the Archdiocese of Rabaul. I had the opportunity to hold the cross and kissed it and placed in its case my intention "I WANT TO BE A PRIEST." Praise God, the following year 2008 I was accepted to Chanel Minor Seminary College, the place that rejected my application previously in 1997, and it was the place that I had followed the World Youth Cross in 2007 (last year). After almost 11 years I was back in the classroom and that continues on until today 2017. Whoever reads my story I ask of you only one thing, PRAY FOR ME. If you are a priest, remember me in MASS.

Seminarian HENRY MATLAUN