

My name is Adrian Meuka, and I am from Bougainville. Where did I get my vocation from? Actually my family members are very devoted Catholics, especially my parents. Well it was a time when I was about nine years old boy, and I first heard a calling to priestly life, morally because of the prayer life of my family, where we usually said our prayers every morning and every evening. (I was due to attend the first stage of my primary school but actually there was no education; schools were closed because of the civil unrest we encountered in Bougainville, especially the fighting between the Bougainville Revolutionary Army members and the government forces).

During my primary school days even up until the early stages of secondary schooling days I never thought of discerning a call which I heard when I was still a young boy. My focus was really disturbed because of the peer groups and also wanting to have another professions in life as policeman or a soldier. It was only at the end of my year ten class when I felt a called again to discern a life to a priestly vocation. And then I applied to one of the religious congregations called Marist, Society of Mary, and they accepted me, and there I spent ten years in their way life going through all different stages of formation in order to discern my called to a priestly vocation. Almost coming at the end of my formation and studies in the seminary, I decided to withdraw from the congregation because I realised and discovered that it was not my called to be a religious as Marist, and I went home.

After spending a good time at home, involving myself in other religious or the church activities within my parish, a feeling of discerning of being called and becoming a priest and religious came back to me again, so there I made up my mind to write to other religious congregations, and I was accepted by the Order of Friars Minor to attend their formation programs and to discern my vocation with them. It was a prayerful time I had with them; however, after a while I discovered and realised that it was not my call to be a religious. Prayerfully I started contacting Bishop Joseph Roszynski SVD from the diocese of Wewak and got accepted, and eventually I made up my mind to withdraw from the Franciscans and then decided to join Bishop Roszynski's diocese as a diocesan candidate.

And finally I am now doing my last two years of theology under the sponsorship of the Catholic Diocese of Wewak, and I am happy and looking forward to being ordained as a local clergy of the diocese and to serve its faithful more eagerly and more spiritually.