

I am Jerry Kirmie, sponsored by the diocese of Wewak.

When I was in the lower grades, I had two dreams. One was to be a teacher and the other was to be a priest. I wanted to be a teacher not because I love teaching, but because one of my teachers was too harsh on us. Just for minor faults, he punished us and sometimes hit us with a pen belt. We thought he would just correct or encourage the class from those mistakes but the result was totally the opposite. Because of his action, most of my classmates left school. The thought of being a teacher became strong and alive in me. When I would become a teacher I would definitely pay him back either through his sons or grandsons.

However, thoughts started drifting away from being a teacher when I entered college. In the college that was run by the Salisians, we used to have Eucharistic celebration every day. I believed this is where the twist began in which I started to admire the priest. I could feel in my heart that my true vocation was to be a priest rather than being a teacher. I prayed about my call and sometimes shared with my Rector who was a Salisian priest. He told me to pray about it and attend Mass every day. The thought of being a priest grew stronger and stronger. And in the year 2005 I joined the Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin as their candidate for the postulancy program in Mendi, SHP. I made my first profession 2007. I left the Capuchins in 2013 due to my failures in not complying with the rules of the Order. I later tried to join the diocese of Mendi but left again.

In mid 2017 -2018, I stayed with the Franciscan Order in Aitape, trying to join them, but no good came. I was again sent home. At home I continued doing things that I could do to help my community. But in my heart I firmly believed that one day a door would be open for me to achieve this dream or God's call to be a priest. I did not give up praying and trusting God, even though sometimes it was very challenging being in the village.

I committed myself in praying the Holy Rosary, offering my intentions. And surely one day I received a call from one of the seminarians from the diocese of Wewak. He asked me about my situation and the interest of being a priest. We had a good conversation, and he gave me the vocation director's number and the Bishop's number. I thank Mother Mary and the Lord for opening a door to me to serve him in the church. I started contacting these two most important persons. And in 2019 in the month of September, I was asked by the Bishop to come to Wewak. I stayed in the diocese of Wewak for 4 months and the Bishop told me that he was sending me back to CTI to complete my studies. I accepted it whole heartedly, and now I am here at the Holy Spirit Seminary, as a candidate of the diocese of Wewak.