

My name is Hans Gende. I am 28 years old, a diocesan seminarian from the diocese of Kundiawa, Simbu province, in the Central Highlands of Papua New Guinea. Currently, I am doing Theology Two in Catholic Theological Institute (CTI) in Bomana, Port Moresby. It is my 8th year of being in the seminary formation to become a priest. I am happy to become a priest because this is what I choose to be in order to serve God through His people and creation as a whole. For this reason, I try my best with God's help not to ignore, but to face the life challenges of the contemporary transitional socio-cultural changes with confidence. I believe that God will guide me through in my journey to the priesthood. To become a priest was my childhood dream and here is where my story begins.

I and my brother (Joe), and my sister (Talita) were born in an environment where the Catholic faith was very strong. My father and mother are Catholics. In the family, we strictly observe Catholic disciplines and learn Catechisms. As a child I had a great desire to become priest. It was simply because I wanted to celebrate the Eucharist. During catechesis in the family, my father told us that during the Eucharistic celebration, the priest consecrates the bread and wine to become truly the body and blood of Christ, which our senses could not perceive. He added that neither angels nor any human being on earth can do that, but only a priest. Upon hearing my father, I had a desire to do the same. With that desire, I grew up and went to school to become a priest.

I started my elementary grade one and two at Godumakane Elementary school in 2001-2. In 2003, I went to St. Mary's Kangir Primary School and did grade three. In 2008 I completed my eighth grade in the same primary school. In 2009-10, I did grade nine and ten at Mt. Wilhelm High School. From there, I went to Kerowagi Secondary and completed my eleventh and twelfth grade in 2011-12. All these years of my life, my focus was to become priest one day. Even though there are many ups and downs, I never gave up the call to the priesthood that I felt in my life. That drove me to meet my vocation director, and with the help of my bishop I entered the minor seminary in 2014.

From 2014-16 I completed my propaedeutic years in minor seminary at St. Fidelis Cup in Madang province. From 2017-19 I completed my philosophy with basic religious studies in Good Shepherd Seminary at Fatima, Banz Jiwaka province. In 2020 I was doing pastoral in Migende parish under the supervision of Fr. Cosmas Kombla, SVD. Currently 2021, I am studying theology in CTI, Bomana. By 2024, I will be completing my theological studies. At around 2025 I will receive the diaconate ordination and later will be getting ordained as priest.

Personally, I am happy to become a priest because this is the life I chose to live. In short, I am looking forward to share more stories; if anyone is willing to hear my personal story in detail, he/she may contact me on my Gmail address, [hansgende58@gmail.com](mailto:hansgende58@gmail.com). I am willing to share. Thank you and may God bless whoever reads my short vocation story.