

## Vocation Story

My name is Joseph Kun. I come from the Catholic Diocese of Kundiawa. My Parish is Koge St. Michael's Parish. I was born on the 12th of December, 1992. My father is a secondary school teacher, and my mother is a simple housewife. Both of them were good Catholic Christians. However, my father passed away when I was four years old, leaving behind my mother, me, and my two little sisters.

After my father's death, I was sent to live with my two grandparents while my mother lived as widow to look after my two little sisters. Being with my two grandparents, I learned many basic teachings and principles of the Catholic Church. My grandparents thought me many basic things about how to be a good, faithful, and devoted Catholic Christian. What they actually did was that they taught me how to make the sign of the cross, how to pray the rosary and other devotional prayers; they brought me to Mass every Sunday and feast days. They often made sure I never missed a Sunday service. They also explain to me the meaning of the sacraments, esp., the Eucharist and others.

As for me, I have to be honest that I observed and followed everything which my two grandparents do and say. Consequently, their teachings and Catholic way of life thus manipulated and convinced to be who I am today. That's because both of them were very faithful and devoted Catholic Christians, and so they wanted me to be the same. Surely, it's my pleasure today and I am very grateful to acknowledge the time and effort of my two beloved grandparents, Maria D. Waine and Kun G. Lucas. It was from them, who shaped my Catholic background and my understanding of the Catholic Church.

Personally, I never dreamed or aimed to become a priest when I went to school. But did my year twelve, and I was challenged by my grandfather, when he shared with me his life story. He told me, "I was once a colonial store keeper. I often worked for the early missionaries who came to Koge to establish the parish station to evangelize the gospel. Being with them in the past, I often admired their way of life because, it was perfect. And to me, I personally wish I would be like them, but I couldn't. Therefore, I want you to study for the priesthood and become one of them, he said. Then I replied saying, "Ok I will try". The very same year, before I sat for my year twelve national exam, my grandfather died. His death reminds of his wish that he shared with me in his story. Then I change my mind to fulfill his dream and forget about what I wanted to become in the future.

Fortunately, it happen that one month after the death of my grandfather. I was surprised to meet with the vocation director of Kundiawa diocese, Fr. Peter Noelia. It was during a Religious Education period (RE) that he went give the vocation talk to us the Catholic students of Muaina Secondary. However, after the class, he gave us his contact details together with the address of the vocation office. From that moment, I was convinced that the time was right for me to fulfill my grandfather's dream. I was excited and happy after meeting with him (vocation director). I said to myself, "Now I will try to follow my grandfather's advice and write to the vocation direction, to see whether they will accept me or not." With no doubt, I wrote a letter of interest and sent it to the vocation office in Mingende. Two weeks later, before I sat for my national examination, I received my reply from the vocation office to do the entry test. Without delay, I went and sat for the entry test. One day early before I sat for the exams, I got my results from the vocation office together with my acceptance letter from St. Fidelis College (Minor Seminary) in Madang. Being in the seminary, I never dreamed of anything else. My interest of becoming a priest started to grow. I did everything out of joy. Thus I found myself enjoying my stay. Now that I am here, I love the work and wish I would complete my journey with no regrets.

Joseph Kun