

VOCATION STORY

It was in Milne Bay Province, on a little Island called Trobriand Island. This is one of the beautiful Islands in PNG with great variety of natural biodiversity. It lies just below the Tropic of Cancer, sharing the border with the Pacific and Artic oceans. I grew up in a poor family and my parents are subsistence farmers. The desire of becoming a priest grew in me when I was small, around five years old. In the year 2000 I received the sacrament of Baptism at the hands of Rev. Fr. Lino CM, and I told him about my heart longing desire of becoming a priest. I was congratulated by the parish priest with some lolly candies. During that time I was not yet enrolled for elementary level of education, and I knew nothing about seminary life, the place of formation and so forth. However, as the time went by, my desire of becoming a priest developed even more and more.

I completed my upper secondary level of education and wanted to study more at the Natural Agriculture Research Institute University. However, my family could not afford me to go for further studies. Therefore, I helped my parents in making yam gardens while I took habit of praying every single day. And one day my prayers were answered. I was out in the garden with my yam seeds and taro tubers. There came my parish priest, Rev. Mars CM of the Philippines. I greeted him and blurted out the whole story of my desire to become a priest. When my grandmother heard this, she said that priesthood is meant only for rich people, especially light skinned people. And she discouraged me from thinking of becoming a priest since we don't have money to pay the school fee. Despite of the discouragements I kept on hoping.

After three months, I was sent to RCJ community in Sideia for discernment by Father Mars CM. I became an altar boy serving daily masses. The Rogationist superior, Henry Calso Ramos RCJ of the Philippines, accepted me on the 2nd of June 2021. And this year he brought me to CTI to study Philosophy.

Butu Kabeuya