

MY VOCATION STORY

Hi! Friends, brothers and sisters, I am Austine Lus from the Diocese of Wewak. I was born on the 4th of December 1986. I am the seventh born in the family of eleven. Wanting to become a priest was one of my dreams when I was ten, while seeing my father who was an acolyte minister who served communion on Sundays. I thought one fine day, after some years, when I became a young man, I will take my father's place as an acolyte minister.

After some years had gone by, it was all forgotten and in 2004, I visited my father in the hospital. On his sick bed three hours before his death, PAPA said, SON- by next year, you are going to school. It happened that I attended the primary school and continued my education until I completed grade twelve in 2011. In 2009 I applied to the Marist Congregation and was accepted in 2011. However my mother disagreed with this, and I stayed home with her for two years and she left and passed on. From there, I applied to the Patrician Brothers in Aitape. I was accepted and went for the Come and See program in 2014.

Unfortunately, I was did return to Aitape for the postulant program because our Late Bishop Michael Marai called me up and asked me to apply to the Diocese of Wewak as a diocesan candidate. I did apply as the late bishop asked me, and my application was successful. I was sent to St. Fidelis Seminary Cap in Madang Province. I completed three years; two years propaedeutic and a spiritual year (2015-2017). In 2018, I continued my seminary study in Good Shepherd Seminary, in Fatima Banz Jiwaka Province. I completed my three years of philosophical studies in 2020 and did my pastoral year in 2021. After my pastoral year, I was then recommended by my pastoral moderator to do my theological studies.

Finally, I flew to Port Moresby for the first time not alone, but with my other brothers, as a stranger but yet comforted by the brothers. I had the feeling that the things are getting so hard but I knew that there is nothing impossible with God. I felt down but not doomed to fall out, knowing that Jesus is my hope.

Austine Lus TH II - 2022