



I am Louis Lokeale from Pomio in ENB under the Archdiocese of Rabaul now doing my first year philosophy at Catholic Theological Institute (CTI) and discerning my call to the priesthood.

My vocation began within my family. I was blessed to be born to parents who love God, love each other and love me. I am twenty-six years old, the second last born in the family of six siblings. It is in our family that I came to know God that he loves me. I have three brothers and two sisters.

I always love to stay with them, share ideas, pray, and so on. It was in our family that I came to know God that he loves me, and I also learned how to love him. From early age, my parents taught me that loving and serving God was the most important adventure of life, and this includes the possibility of God calling me to the priesthood. While I cannot say I am always wanted to be a priest, I certainly look back now and see how God has planted this seeds of vocation in me in preparation for the priesthood from my youth. One of my most memorable experiences that I can still remember is when I was doing my grade three and I was told to serve the priest during the vigil mass. I was confused at the time of consecration and I did not ring the bell. One of the priests I look up to through my childhood was Fr. Cyril, who was the first priest in our parish Viosopuna. One of the highlights of my young life that I still remember very well was the time I have received the first Holy Communion. I am always happy when serving the mass in my own parish community Palevolou.

I did my grade one up to six at Serenguna Primary School from 2007 to 2012, and then I transferred to Bili Primary School because of school fighting. I did my grade seven (7) and eight (8) at Bili Primary School from 2013 to 2014. After that I was selected to Palmalmal Secondary School to do my grade 9 and 10 from 2015 to 2016. After completing Grade 10, I was selected to do my Grade 11 and 12 from 2017 to 2018. From there I have attended the Come and See Program, and I did very well on the entrance exams and was accepted to do my Propaedeutic one program at Sacred-Heart Minor Seminary Rapolo. I grew in my faith with the help of my formators and priests like Fr. John Nick. I built up my interest of becoming a priest through my parish priest Fr. John Nick, a humble and simple priest. He had truly lived out the virtue of humility which really motivated me to becoming a priest in the future.

After my graduation I decided to attend Rabaul Community College (RCC) to study as a Community Health Worker (CHW). At RCC I encountered many spiritual challenges and my faith was tested in a way I never had before. This caused me to question what the purpose of my life is and what the best thing is for me in life to pursue. When I went home during Christmas holiday, I remembered watching Fr. John Bopia and the catechist, which is my father Mathew Lokeale, leading the people during the mass and I felt something deep within me prompting me to seriously discern my vocation to the priesthood. When it came to 2021, I was given an acceptance letter by the vocation director to do my Propaedeutic One. And in 2022, I did my Propaedeutic Two and was accepted to do my Spiritual Year at Good Shepherd Seminary.

In 2023 I was accepted to do my spirituality year at Good Shepherd Seminary. I am inundated with the mighty blessings that the Lord has bestowed on me. And from that I come to point out some of my expectations. Understanding my own personality through my personal prayer, meditations, reflections, and being attentive to all school organized activities, etc.

I am now in Holy Spirit Seminary Bomana doing my studies at Catholic Theological Institute (CTI), discerning my vocation to the priesthood. Therefore I came to know that the vocation to the priesthood is a special gift from God. It is not for personal pride but for the service of others.