

Supporting Future Priests in Timor-Leste in the Spirit of the Jubilee of Hope

In the spirit of the Jubilee Year 2025, dedicated to hope and renewal, Pope Francis has emphasised that "in the pilgrimage of Christian life, a new beginning is always possible."

Words that resonate particularly with Clintino, a seminarian in Timor-Leste. Growing up in a family where financial constraint was a reality, Clintino decided to follow his calling to service and start a new beginning despite the financial struggles. Inspired by the word of Jesus, Clintino hopes to become a priest and provide pastoral and tangible support to communities, ensuring everyone hears the word of God.

"The thing that inspires me every day is the word of Jesus, *'I am the way, the truth, and the life'*," says Clintino.

More than leaders in faith, priests play a vital role in supporting communities around the world through education, health, and social services. Despite the need, aspiring priests often face a long learning timeframe, and with limited resources in the seminary, these hurdles become significant in completing their studies.

Timor-Leste, one of the most Catholic countries in the world, has a population that is 97% Catholic, reflecting the deep integration of faith into everyday life. Priests in Timor-Leste not only lead the spiritual life of this predominantly Catholic nation but also support community development, especially in remote and underserved areas.

Clintino is an example of how pursuing a calling can come with financial strain for seminarians and their families, as many families rely on future generations to become breadwinners. By choosing a different path, Clintino faces mounting struggles, including difficulties meeting the costs of seminary education.

Catholic Mission invites you to support future Church leaders like Clintino and their church communities. Your donation can help train seminarians, giving them the opportunity to pursue their calling and sustain the mission of hope and renewal that Pope Francis named as core to this Jubilee Year. Visit www.catholicmission.org.au/lent and help seminarians bring hope to communities in most need.

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About Catholic Mission

Catholic Mission is the Australian agency of the Pontifical Mission Societies – the Catholic Church’s global organisation dedicated to continuing Jesus Christ’s mission in the world: that all may have life to the full. Catholic Mission contributes funding and project support to critical church-run initiatives in Africa, Asia, Oceania, and South America. These include spiritual formation, pastoral care, education, health, sanitation, and agricultural programs. Here in Australia, we form people to go out and be missionary in their professional and personal lives; to pray, advocate and act for those on the margins. Catholic Mission has offices in 27 Australian dioceses.