

# ORDINATIONS 2010

Archdiocese of Bombay

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**Name: Shavito Correia**

**Parents: (Late) Joseph Elias and Escolastica Correia**

**Parish: Our Lady of the Rosary, Mazagaon**



“Here Lord, I come to do your will.” – Heb 10:9

I owe my vocation a great deal to my parents. I wanted to be a priest from my childhood days ever since I was an altarboy. I still remember my father taking me early morning to serve the first Mass. When my father died, I was admitted into a Salesian boarding at Lonavla, where I interacted with the priests and brothers. Their love and dedication inspired me, and made my childhood desire even more strong. I disclosed my desire to my superiors, who sent me to the apostolic house in Lonavla to discern my vocation. I was later asked to reconsider my decision, as I was the only son among four siblings. I came back home, worked for 18 years in different jobs, which exposed me to different experiences. I feel the experience was a preparation for the future. I find it much easier to understand the problems the lay faithful face in their work place. My desire to become a priest persisted; I returned to the seminary. My sisters and brothers-in-law were very supportive of my decision. Many others have also been instrumental in guiding me – the priests and people I have interacted with in both my home parish and the parishes in which I have been during my formation. I also wish to thank the seminary professors and my spiritual directors who have helped me discover my strengths and weaknesses. The days I spent in the seminary will always be cherished by me. Gratitude fills my heart today, and I thank God for choosing me to become a priest, and I pray that He may continue to shower His blessing upon me, so that I may remain faithful to God who has called me.

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**Name: Lawrence D'Souza**

**Parents: (Late) Anthony and (Late) Elizabeth D'Souza**

**Parish: Infant Jesus, Pantnagar, Ghatkopar**



“To proclaim Christ Crucified and Him Risen from the dead!”  
I owe my vocation to my beloved late parents, Elizabeth and Anthony, who strove ceaselessly by their sufferings and example to kindle in me a deep love for the Catholic Faith, for the Word of God and the Sacraments, and with the True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. I am ever indebted to my elder brother and sister, Peter and Stella, for always being with me and strengthening me every moment in my vocation. I next owe my vocation to all the priests who have inspired me by their fidelity and exemplary commitment to their priestly mission, that I witnessed and shared in from my childhood, at my home parish of Infant Jesus, Pantnagar. I also owe my gratitude to all the Seminary Fathers who nurtured my vocation in the Seminary as well as all my Spiritual Directors. My motto as a priest will be: To proclaim Christ Crucified, and Him Risen from the dead!  
My Mission Statement: First and foremost, to strive incessantly to configure my life to the Paschal Mystery of Christ, imploring his grace to be another Christ (Alter Christus), and to proclaim the Great Mystery to all people of goodwill, through New Evangelisation and Inter-Religious Dialogue.

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**Name: Sean Sequeira**  
**Parents: Seby and Joan Sequeira**  
**Parish: Our Lady of Lourdes, Orlem, Malad**



“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Phil 4:13)  
For as long as I can remember, it has always been my desire to become a priest. As I try to recollect how this thought was planted in my head, I can say honestly and with great conviction that it first began at home, with my devout and Godfearing parents. The atmosphere at home was, and is, that of prayer and of strong Christian values. Being regular church-goers and active members in various parish associations, my parents always encouraged us children to actively participate in all church activities, including choirs, youth, lectors, etc. Though I always knew that this is what I wanted to do, I must admit that making a clear decision and taking the final step was no easy task. Being part of a wonderful circle of friends and enjoying life to the fullest was also very much a part of me, to the extent that when people became aware of my decision to join, they found it very hard to believe. The ‘call’ came just after my final year examinations, on Palm Sunday when the YLT in Orlem decided after every Mass to give to all who attended, a palm with a Bible quotation on it. There was just one left in my friend’s basket, and she gave it to me saying, “This one’s for you”. The message read “He is calling you!” and from that day I decided to follow the Lord and serve in His vineyard. There was no turning back.

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**Name: Gavin Lopes**

**Parents: (Late) Paul John and Maria de Luz Lopes**

**Parish: Our Lady of Salvation, Dadar**



“All things to all people” (1 Cor 9:22)  
All through my life at the very core of my being, I have experienced the Lord’s hand firmly lead me, guide me to know Him and His loving faithfulness. In the many trying times that we faced as a family - my mother, brother and late father have been witness to the unfailing love of our Heavenly Father, in and through the people who came into our lives. Each situation, each event has been a step closer to Him. And in words similar to that of St Bernadette, since He chose me, I had no better choice than to choose Him, and so as a minister sharing in the saving ministry of Jesus Christ, I find myself at the service of the community. Being convinced of His love, I feel propelled to be Jesus’ instrument, bringing all people to feel His living presence among us. For this purpose, in the footsteps of St Paul, I pray to God to be able to be all things to all people.

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**Name: Alban D’Souza**

**Parents: Ramsay and Sheila D’Souza**

**Parish: St Blaise, Amboli**



As a young boy, I was an altar server in my home parish. I recall that much before my First Holy Communion I had a keen desire to receive the Sacred Host. At home, with a bedsheet wrapped around me, I would imitate celebrating Mass, using unconsecrated hosts given to me by the priests and kalakhatta (cold drink). I was also very involved in the parish children's choir and youth group, and served in the extraordinary Ministry. I obtained a Diploma in Electronics and worked as a Jr Engineer. Later, I taught music and other subjects at St Blaise High School, and directed and scripted musicals, skits and plays for many of the schools and parishes in Mumbai. As a musician, I performed in various five-star hotels (restaurants) in Mumbai, and for a while, even had my own dance-band, playing at weddings, formal dances and other shows. I also provided sound systems for church programmes, weddings, events, etc. Through this, I interacted with many priests, and was influenced by their life, dedication, service and spirituality. I was increasingly drawn to offer my own life to love and serve God and His people by becoming a priest myself.

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**Name: Tarsicius Fernandes**  
**Parents: Andrew and Julie Fernandes**  
**Parish: St Sebastian, Marouli**



“Called to share in His Life”  
I hail from St. Sebastian's parish, Marouli, Chembur. I am the only son of my parents, and have two sisters. It is their constant love, prayer and support that has kept me going. I am a B.Com. graduate and I owe my vocation to the people of God who in some way or the other have shared their lives with me. It is through them that I have experienced God's presence in my life. I am indeed grateful to God, who has “Called me to share in His Life” – a life that offers the Cross, but leads to the crown of glory.

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**Name: Sachin Lopes**  
**Parents: Francis and Rozi Lopes**  
**Parish: Our Lady of Lourdes, Shirilawadi, Virar (W)**



“You did not choose me, but I chose you.” (Jn 15:16)  
These words ring true as I look back on my own vocation. My parents, Francis and Rozi Lopes, are both engaged in farming. As a child, I inculcated my parent’s rich values of faith and love. I have two siblings, an elder brother to guide me and my younger sister to care for me. I believe the success behind my vocation is the encouragement of my family and the prayers of my near and dear ones. The stories of Moses, Samuel and other prophets show that from the beginning they had a special place in God’s plans. I too felt chosen from my very childhood to be a priest. The year I received Jesus for the first time, we were fortunate to have a new church very close to our house, giving me an opportunities to involve myself in church activities. This is how my journey towards Christ began. I loved being an altar server, attending Sunday school, being a youth group and choir member. While involving myself in these activities, I got a chance to interact with many priests and religious. This close contact, both directly and indirectly, had a great influence on my personal life as well. I used to enjoy being with priests. I decided to attend a vocation camp after my Std. X examination. I became more enlightened and confident to think about priesthood. My parish priest recommended that I stay in the minor seminary; but I was still not sure what I wanted to do. After my Std. XII, I involved myself in the parish street play groups, and thus came in contact with the Jesuits. I was influenced to join them, but once again, I ignored the call. In the meantime, I reached my final year of graduation; that was when I started thinking very strongly about my priestly vocation. This was the third time I was in a situation where I needed something so strongly but I was not sure if I wanted to accept it. I was just like Jonah, running away from God’s call, and God kept embracing me every time. At last I made up my mind, and joined St Pius X Seminary, Goregaon after my graduation, where I was helped to discover

myself, and realised that God has chosen me for His own purpose. I pray that I may be fruitful in my future endeavours.

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**Name: Navin Mendonca**

**Parents: (Late) Ignatius and Alice Mendonca**

**Parish : St. Anthony Malwani**



“It is in giving that we do receive.” (cf. Acts 20:35)  
I joined e-Funds (a call centre) and worked there for 1½ year, getting a fat pay packet. It was here that I discovered my vocation. “Priestly vocation from a call centre?” one may ask. Yes, it is true. God does not call the qualified, but qualifies the called. The situation at home did not favour my joining the Seminary, as I was the only earning member in my family, with an elder sister married, and a younger brother still studying. I had to choose between a plump salary and following God. I chose the latter... I chose God. Today, as I look back and evaluate my decision, I realise that God has blessed my family with 10 times more than what I would have earned. I have experienced His manifold blessings in my seminary formation too, and that is why I have chosen as my motto, “It is in giving that we do receive” (cf. Acts 20:35). God has always provided me with everything. Today, I feel like Jonah, who did a detour to avoid where God wanted him to go. I thank God who brought me to His shore and has called me to do His will. I thank my parents who sowed the seed of God in my life. I am grateful to the professors of the seminary for their companionship and benevolence towards me in my years of formation. I also thank all those who have helped me to ascend the altar of God. As I reflect and pray, I realise that my priesthood is ‘a closer walk with Jesus’. May I always remain a priest after ‘the heart of Jesus’.

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**Name: Michael Pen**  
**Parents: Mates and Jabi Pen**  
**Parish: St Gonsalo Garcia, Gass (Vasai)**



“I want to know Christ and share his experience with others” (cf. Phil 3:10)  
A vocation to the priesthood is a mystery. God can call anyone at any place and at any time. It was only after my graduation, that I thought for the first time of becoming a priest. It seemed strange to me that God was calling me to join the priesthood, since at that time I did not attend Sunday Mass regularly. But I did not join at the first call. In order to support my family, I took up a job and started working. As time passed, I was well settled in my professional life. While I continued thinking of joining the seminary, I kept postponing my decision, since I was happy in my personal and professional life. Finally, after working for ten years, I decided to join the seminary. As I look back, I realise that it is Jesus who has changed my life. I have felt His presence in my life and I have come close to Jesus during my years in priestly formation. He was constantly leading me towards His priesthood. Pope Benedict XVI once said in a homily, “And only where God is seen, does life truly begin. Only when we meet the living God in Christ do we know what life is.” My vision is, ‘I want to know Christ and share his experience with others.’ (cf. Phil 3:10). Once I know Christ, then I can give myself to Him more and more, and imitate Him in both words and deeds.

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**Name: Henry Sequeira**  
**Parents: Ignatius and Felicia Sequeira**  
**Parish: St Paul, Parel**



‘He is the vine and I am a branch. Apart from Him, I am nothing, I can do nothing.’

My vocation springs from my early childhood days when as an altar server, I used to cherish this desire to dress in priestly vestments, celebrate mass & animate the liturgy. As I grew up, this desire gradually ignited in me a quest for Jesus. I want to ‘see Jesus’. After my schooling, I aspired to join the seminary, but somehow I felt the need to study. So I took up science, graduated in Chemistry, and immediately joined Asian Paints India Ltd. as a Junior Chemist. All through the years in college and at work, I never lost sight of the quest. This quest inspired me to take up teaching at Sunday school, help out in the parish, participate in zonal activities, reach out in service, fight for justice, etc.

In these last eight years of formation at St Pius X College, I have grown from the desire to ‘see Jesus’ to ‘learning to experience and encounter Jesus every day’. For ‘He is the vine and I am a branch; apart from Him, I am nothing, I can do nothing.’ Whatever I am, whatever I have, comes from Him, and whatever He gives to me, He asks of me to bear fruit. As I stand at the threshold of my priestly ordination, I invite you to pray for me that I may be strengthened to always remain attached to Him, bearing fruit and being ready to love and serve all, even if it means to lay down my life as He did.

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**Name: Daniel Fernandes**  
**Parents: John and Celine Fernandes**  
**Parish: St Anthony, Vakola**



“I will raise up for myself a faithful priest who will act according to what is in my heart and my mind” – 1 Sam 2:35  
I hail from St Anthony’s Church, Vakola, Santacruz East. My parents, John and Celine Fernandes, have three children. I am the youngest of them. I have an elder brother and an elder sister, both of them married and well settled. My journey to the priesthood began right from the time I was an altar server. The approachability and care shown by the priests kindled in me a desire to become a priest myself. I joined St Pius X College after graduating from St Andrew’s College, Bandra. I pray that I will be a joyful priest in the vineyard of the Lord. Amen.

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