



## **Father Christopher Otieno**

My name is Father Christopher Otieno. I was born on December 19, 1991, in the western part of Kenya, where I grew for most part of my life. I am from a family of six: my dad, Rasmos, my mom, Lilian, and 3 siblings – Cyprian, Cecilia and Celestine. We are all Catholics. I was brought up in Catholic faith and I enjoyed going to church. It is from the frequent attendance of Mass on Sundays that my vocation to priesthood started growing. The desire to be a priest developed from seeing priests celebrate Mass, I was attracted to this, and I really wanted to celebrate Mass like these priests; their vestments and the way they conducted themselves in a solemn and recollected demeanor just attracted me even more.

I joined Mass servers at the parish and then later I went to the Minor Seminary for my High School education. Being at the Minor Seminary kept the desire burning, especially being able to attend Mass everyday and being taught by priests and nuns. When I was a sophomore, my uncle was ordained a priest, I attended his ordination and I believe at this point I made up my mind to seriously discern to be a priest in the Catholic Church. My uncle Fr. Daniel remains my role model to date. He inspired and encouraged me to start corresponding with the Vocations Director of Consolata Missionaries, a Religious Order he belongs to. I later joined the Consolata Missionaries in 2011 and went through their formation for 9 years. I discerned out of the Religious Order in 2020 because I felt that God was calling me to be a diocesan priest.

Through my uncle, Fr. Daniel, I met Fr. Clive who is a Kenyan priest here in the Diocese of Joliet. I shared with him my intention and desire to be a diocesan priest. Fr. Clive was kind enough to link me up with Fr. Borello, the Director of Vocation. After corresponding with Fr. Borello for two years, I was accepted to join the Diocese as a seminarian. I came to USA in December 2023. I was warmly received in the diocese. I lived at the rectory in Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Aurora, which serves as my home parish here in the US. I then joined Mundelein Seminary in August 2024. While at Mundelein I used to go to St. James the Apostle as my Teaching parish. I was ordained a Deacon on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and I was assigned to serve at Immaculate Conception, Elmhurst. I was ordained on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and have been assigned to St. Mary of Gostyn. I look forward to serving the People of God as a priest in this parish starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

At my free time I enjoy taking nature walks, playing soccer, watching soccer (can't wait for the World Cup), meeting friends, and visiting families. My favorite foods are chicken and beef. I am very grateful to all people who have supported me in my journey of discernment so far, may God bless them abundantly. To God be the glory, now and forever.

**Father Christopher Otieno**

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