



browse the Q&A

Browse a Q&A topic online.

[More Topics](#)

send a gift subscription

Send a free gift subscription to anyone by typing their e-mail address here.

take action

- [Ask Fr Bannon](#)
- [Subscribe](#)
- [Unsubscribe](#)
- [Visit the Website](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [About Us](#)

[Holy Father »](#)

[Q & A »](#)

[Q & A »](#)

[Meditation - 5th Sunday in Easter »](#)

[Spirituality »](#)

[Special »](#)

[breaking news Vatican »](#)

[breaking news USA »](#)

[the Church worldwide »](#)

this week in ShoreLines

He Nourishes Us Spiritually and Infuses Us with Strength

Let Love Guide You

No Slogans or Sound Bites

Three Truths

Faith and Trust

New U.S. Priests Mirror America

this week in the Church

Pope to Pray for Vocations (Zenit)

Pope Urges Youth to Fall in Love (Zenit)

Religion at School No Breach of Freedom, Says Pope (Zenit)

Pope: Church Needs Holy Married Couples (Zenit)

Study: Children That Go to Mass, Continue Going (Zenit)

Cardinal Denounces Invalid Ordination of Women (Zenit)

Benedictines Celebrate Brother's Canonization (Zenit)

Mexican Bishops Respond to Flu (Zenit)

Cardinal Urges Sending Prayer Tweets (Zenit)

Pray a Lot and Well, Pope Urges Priests (Zenit)

Holy Father

[«« Return to top](#)
[Jump to next segment »»](#)

"He Nourishes Us Spiritually and Infuses Us with Strength"
excerpt from Easter Monday speech
Pope Benedict XVI

[Browse similar texts on the Web](#)

His Resurrection has formed a bridge between the world and eternal life over which every man and every woman can cross to reach the true goal of our earthly pilgrimage.

"I am risen and I am with you always." This assurance of Jesus is realized above all in the Eucharist; it is in every Eucharistic Celebration that the Church and every one of her members experience his living presence and benefit from the full richness of his love. In the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the risen Lord is present and mercifully purifies us from our sins; he nourishes us spiritually and infuses us with strength to withstand the harsh trials of life and the fight against sin and evil.

He is the sturdy support in our pilgrimage towards the eternal dwelling place in Heaven. May the Virgin Mary, who experienced beside her divine Son every phase of his mission on earth, help us to welcome with faith the gift of Easter and make us faithful and joyful witnesses of the risen Lord.

Q & A

[«« Return to top](#)
[Jump to next segment »»](#)

"Let Love Guide You"
with Fr Anthony Bannon LC

[Browse similar texts on the Web](#)

Q. Dear Fr Anthony,

I'm in the process of beginning a formation process for a lay ministry program which will also help me discern whether I am to pursue a permanent diaconate later on. One concern I have with the program is that there is a small but vocal minority of people involved in this process who hold ideas virtually identical to some new age philosophies that I rejected in my return to the Church. While I'm not concerned about reverting to these practices, I am not sure how to respond should we encounter these practices in a retreat or workshop. I have several ideas but would be interested in any advice you might offer.

-Mike

A. Dear Mike,

First let me congratulate you on your desire to serve Christ as his deacon.

As regards those seemingly very new-age ideas you come across, don't be surprised for we live in an age of confusion and many people hold those ideas because it is all they have heard, they have never learned or been told the truth. I would suggest that you take a personal interest in apologetics, take any question you are not sure how to answer to an apologetics question box (like EWTN.com), and especially, very especially, let love and your concern for the genuine welfare of those who unwittingly hold these opinions be what moves you to give them an answer.

God bless

-Fr Anthony

Q & A

[«« Return to top](#)
[Jump to next segment »»](#)

"No Slogans or Sound Bites"
with Fr Anthony Bannon LC

[Browse similar texts on the Web](#)

Q. Dear Fr Anthony,

I have been thinking about how to dedicate my life in the way God calls me for several years. Service, community, chastity, and poverty to focus my commitment on Christ seem the way calling me. However, I have many reservations about Catholic teaching, especially on issues of support for homosexuals, their civil unions/marriage and their adopted children, and on women's rights in the church. I feel my relationship with God is more important than positions on these issues. Is there room for my disagreements with these Catholic teachings within a vocation as a sister? I realize that most important would be to discuss this with a certain community, but before I continue considering, I would like to know if a vocation in the Catholic Church is a possibility with my views.

Thank you very, very much

-Marian

A. Dear Marian,

Much if not all of what we know and form our opinions on in the areas you mention comes not from the Church's teaching but from the media's interpretation and presentation of it, the headline and the news clip. These same interpretations are those given by some dissenting groups within the Church that pose as alternative, valid ways of living the Catholic faith.

If you are called to the religious vocation you should keep in mind that Christ by the same token is calling you to serve him and spread his teachings by example and action. And his gift to the Church was the assurance that it would always remain faithful to him in teaching of faith and the behavior that is true to his truth. So really you owe it to yourself and to your personal sense of honesty to sort out your questions. If Christ has given us the Church we can't really say we have a complete relationship with God if we reject what he teaches us through the Church.

I think you have some homework to do, but you need to do it in the right places: In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, in the actual documents that come from the teaching authority of the Church (the Pope himself, the different bodies and offices he uses, the Bishops who teach in union with him). This may be a challenge, because if you already have some definitely formed and articulated opinions on these questions you may have to overcome a certain degree of aversion to actually going to the documents themselves to see what they really say, and especially why they say it. It will be a challenge also because what you will find in these documents are not slogans or sound bites but reasoned reflection, slightly tougher intellectual fare than you will encounter elsewhere.

But you will find it extremely enlightening and ultimately satisfying if you persevere. You will find there no narrowness but instead frankness and honesty, much common sense, much understanding of the human condition, much love, and yes, a challenge.

God bless. I'll be praying for you.

-Fr Anthony

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Introductory Prayer: Lord, I believe in the presence of your providence and love in my life. You created me with a plan to be with you and to work with you, to grow as a living branch on you the Vine. I trust you to care for my needs and to reveal how you want me to bear fruit with my life. I love you and want to grow by giving myself more fully according to your will. May my love glorify you, Lord.

Petition: Grant me, Lord, the grace to know your will and the love to do it for your glory.

1. The Vine Grower. My life is not simply, my life. It belongs to the Vine Grower who gives life. God the Father gives me natural life as well as the supernatural life of grace, a share in his own life. As the Vine Grower he works in every circumstance to care for me, my growth, and the fruitfulness of my life. This fruitfulness depends primarily on my relationship with Christ the Vine, through whom his life is given me.

But I often resist pruning, the discipline of Christian life. I prefer not to become too dependent on the Vine. Yet once I become too independent, disconnected, and separated from the Vine, then that life of grace dies and as a branch I can bear no fruit. I may think of myself as productive in some way, but there is no real value in what I do, since I was created to be a branch on this Vine. If I resist the Vine Grower's efforts to revive and reconnect me, he will have no choice but to give up on this dead branch. Alone, I can only wither and will be good for nothing but fueling a fire. Do I trust the Vine Grower? Do I cooperate with his plan?

2. Remain in Me. To remain in Christ is neither a passive state nor a survival mentality. To remain alive in him requires growth. A failure to grow marks the beginning of death. My relationship with Christ, he in me and I in him, grows the more I give myself to him. This begins in prayer where he invites me to a deeper understanding of his ways and a stronger embracing of his will. While his love is constant, I can always grow in my awareness of his great love for me and thus desire more and more to respond with love. This leads to an intimacy where I share his view of my life, where I come to desire what he desires, love what he loves, give myself heroically as he gave himself, and detest what he detests.

Faith and sincerity in prayer will change my life. And this change will be seen in how much and how well I do his will each day. What are the sacrifices of love asked by God in his pruning of my life today?

3. Glorify My Father. St. Augustine says, "Do you want to speak the praise of God? Be yourselves what you speak. If you live good lives, you are his praise" [Sermon 34]. We become the glory of God by doing his will and reproducing his life. What is the fruit we are called to give God? It can only be something lasting, eternal. First is my living of God's life, growing in grace and holiness. Holiness is being united in mind, heart and action with him. Then from this life flow the works of God: "Ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you." Jesus places the two together: "Bear much fruit and become my disciples". Do I want to do great things for God during my short life? Do I want to help Jesus save souls, bring them truth, freedom, healing and life? Only by living in grace and seeking his plan will I fulfill my mission and become eternally fruitful. His Kingdom in my heart and in the apostolic works of my life glorifies God.

Conversation: Lord Jesus, so many times I separate myself from you, the true and eternal vine. Help me to know with certainty that without you I can do nothing, and with you I can do all things. Let me never be parted from you, either here on earth or in eternity.

Questionnaire:

1. Is living the life of grace the first priority of my life? How do I protect it? What have I done to grow in my prayer-life, quality-wise?
2. Have I learned to trust the Father enough to ask him to show me his plan? How well do I welcome and cooperate with his pruning of those things to which I am too attached, my own desires, preferences and plans? Do I most of all desire intimacy with him?
3. In what ways is my prayer leading to changes in my life? Has it moved me to serve others in charity and in apostolic service, sharing the gift of my faith with them? How do I glorify God by the way I live?

Spirituality

[«« Return to top
Jump to next segment »»](#)

"Faith and Trust"

Put all your trust in Our Lord. Renew your faith in his love, in the vocation he has given you. And keep in mind always that faith and trust are absolutely essential to the living of a Christian or consecrated vocation. They are the source of our supernatural optimism, of our joyful and spontaneous manner resulting from our hearts being placed in God, of our desire to do apostolate and win the world for Christ. They are the source of our ability to accept in simplicity the humiliations life brings us with its store of misunderstandings, obstacles, and ingratitude. They are the source of the fundamental attitude of a person who truly wants to give his life to Christ –unconditional Christian love towards all, enemies as well as friends, and a sense of security amid all sorts of tribulations and trials.

Special

[«« Return to top
Jump to next segment »»](#)

"New U.S. Priests Mirror America" *Computer Experts, Refugees, Marathon Runners, Widowers* *USCCB Press Release*

[Browse similar texts on the Web](#)

The ordination Class of 2009, with computer experts, refugees, marathon runners and second-career men, mirrors the United States today. The men from dioceses nationwide show that the call to serve God is heard at all ages. Respondents include attorneys, financiers, teachers and farmers.

Justin Minh Nguyen, of the Diocese of Austin, Texas, a skilled tailor, was a refugee from Vietnam. He was a parishioner of the only Vietnamese parish in Austin and is one of five men to be ordained for the diocese. Quy Vo, a refugee from the Philippines, is being ordained for the Diocese of Albany, New York. He decided to be a priest when he was 10. Pablo Migone, one of four men to be ordained for the Diocese of Savannah, Georgia, is a native of Lima, Peru, and came to the U.S. when he was nine. He started to think about priesthood in tenth grade.

Others from outside the United States include Fernando Jimenez, the first Hispanic to be ordained for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, and Pawel Sass, a native of Poland to be ordained for the Archdiocese of Washington. Budi Wardhana, of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, will be the third native Indonesian-born priest ordained to serve in the United States.

Pre-seminary education and careers vary. Will Straten, of Austin, graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in agronomy and specialized training in turf management. Barry Stechschulte, of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, was a teacher and administrator at a Catholic elementary school. Carl Melchior of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida, was equipment manager for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Edward Hegnauer of Washington is a geologist.

Matt Lee, one of seven men to be ordained for the Cincinnati Archdiocese, had a 12-year career in computer programming in the U.S. Air Force. Ken Halbur Jr. of the Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa, also worked in information technology. David Cupps, of the Diocese of Richmond, Virginia, worked for 18 years at Capital One and was one of the first people in its information technology division. Stephen Schultz, one of the men to be ordained for the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, was director of operations at a computer server manufacturer.

Many had careers in law. Brian J. O'Donnell, one of four men to be ordained for the Diocese of Burlington, Vermont, is a lawyer who was first in his law school class at the University of Maine. Matthew Larsen, of Spokane, Washington, was a public defender. Charles Cortinovis, of Washington, practiced environmental law.

Others come from finance. Burlington's Sean Dowling holds an accounting degree from Montclair State University in New Jersey. He also was a professional baseball umpire. Russell Kovash, of the Diocese of Bismarck, North Dakota, started and operated an insurance/financial services business for 16 years. Robert Mucci, of the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York, spent 25 years as an actuary on Wall Street. Michael Quinn, of San Francisco, spent 20 years in financial management, including several years with a national certified public account (CPA) firm. James Boccabella, of the Washington Archdiocese, worked as a CPA for 20 years.

Law enforcement initially drew some men. Andrew Smith, of the Archdiocese of Chicago, was a Chicago cop for 10 years. John Pachaco, of the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas, was a certified Texas peace officer at Texas Christian University. Dominic Colangelo, a member of the U.S. Southern Province of the Dominican order, was a probation officer.

Christopher Ankley of Kalamazoo, Michigan, is a veterinarian. Jose-Angel Anaya-Estrada of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee is a doctor. John Assalone, to be ordained for the Diocese of Las Vegas, Nevada, was executive director of entertainment for the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino. Patrick O'Hogan, of the Archdiocese of Seattle, was a locomotive engineer. Douglas Ebert, of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, retired early from the airline industry in 2003.

Some have political experience. Joel Bugas, 43, of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico, was a three-term mayor in his home town in the Philippines. Some know media. Benjamin Hasse, of the Diocese of Marquette, Michigan, was part of a PBS special, *The Calling*, a documentary for prime time 2009 that examines the training of religious leaders and the role of religion in society.

Some became Catholic well after childhood. Benjamin Roberts, 32, of the Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina, had considered ordination in the Lutheran Church but converted to Catholicism in 1999. Daniel Maxwell, of the Diocese of Baker, Oregon, comes from a family that except for cousins who married Catholics, hasn't claimed a Catholic for 200 years. He entered the church when he was 17. Robert Rottgers, of Covington, Kentucky, age 52 at ordination, is a convert, widower and grandfather. Windel Scott DuVall, of the Diocese of Rockford, Illinois, is the only Catholic in his family. Scott Winchel of Savannah, and Charles White, of the Archdiocese of Detroit, were Baptists. Daniel Gallagher, of the Washington Archdiocese, was raised as an Evangelical Protestant.

Some come from large families. Matthew Mason, 27, of the Diocese of Manchester, New Hampshire, is the oldest of seven. Christopher Martel, also to be ordained for Manchester, was an Eagle Scout and is the oldest of four. Jacob Runyon, from Fort Wayne-South Bend, is oldest of 11. Giopre Pardo, of the Diocese of Oakland, California, was born in the Philippines and has a brother who is a priest, is one of seven sons. One

of his brothers is a priest and seminary spiritual director in the Philippines.

Some of the Class of 2009 have been married. Steve Garner, of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa, is a widower, as is Hector Basanez, of the Diocese of San Jose, California, who is the father of three adult children. He will be 55 at ordination. Alain Colliou, of the Washington Archdiocese, is a widower, father and grandfather. He worked for 35 years with the World Bank eventually becoming director in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region.

With a median age of 33, classes are growing younger. Allen Hoffa, one of three men to be ordained for the Diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania, is 25. Of the five men to be ordained for the Detroit Archdiocese, two are 26 and the oldest is 36.

Diocesan class sizes vary. The Archdiocese of Newark will ordain 13 men. The Chicago Archdiocese will ordain 10 men; the Washington Archdiocese, eight. The Diocese of Memphis, Tennessee, will ordain six men, two of whom did seminary studies in Mexico. Cincinnati will ordain seven; from 2000-2009 it has averaged five ordinations a year. The Archdiocese, of the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon, will ordain seven men – its largest class since the early seventies. Two are second-career vocations: Fred Anthony, 56, who served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, and Tom Layton, 65, who worked in the Federal Aviation Administration. Two men are from the Philippines, Mariano Escano, 35, and Cary Reniva, 27,

Some have overcome challenges growing up. Shawn Carey, of the Archdiocese of Boston, is deaf and will be the first deaf priest in the archdiocese. Patrick Nelson, of the U.S. Province of the Society of the Divine Savior, is dyslexic. He holds a master's degree in economics and speaks Spanish. He has a twin brother who is also a priest and works in Spanish ministry. He plans to work in Spanish ministry too.

Dedicated sportsmen also will be ordained. Michael Bartholomew, of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, is a competitive walker who competed nationally while in the seminary. He was a member of the U.S. National Team – 50K Walk in 2005 and 2006. Allen Hoffa, of Allentown, played college football at Albright College, and Dan Janasik, of Milwaukee, was a marathon runner.

Upcoming Events & Retreats

«« Return to top
Jump to next segment »»
Browse similar texts on the Web

((Listed here are retreats directed by the Legionaries of Christ and Regnum Christi members. For a listing of diocesan activities and other events, click here to go to the vocation.com website))

the very latest

Select a region of the United States or Canada.

Northeast



go

- Retreats for Men
 Retreats for Women

LEGIONARIES OF CHRIST

Mark Your Calendars! Test Your Call Weekends for the 2009

Calendar Year. Experience the novitiate in Cheshire, CT with retreats for young men ages 16-27 sponsored by the Legion of Christ. These weekend retreats combine time for personal reflection, preached meditations, conferences, and opportunities for confession and spiritual direction with the experience of the day to day life of the seminarians. For more information, please call Br. Francois at (800) 420-5409 or email vocation@legionaries.org. Dates in 2009: May 22-25, June 19-21, July 3-5, July 24-26, August 14-16, September 4-6, October 23-25, November 25-29, December 19-23, and December 26-30.

REGNUM CHRISTI consecrated women

Come and See Weekends. Spend a weekend with the

consecrated women of Regnum Christi, learning about their life, spirituality and mission within the Church. Activities include: Talks/conferences about the Church, Regnum Christi, the Spiritual Life, and consecrated Life in Regnum Christi; a half-day retreat; opportunities for confession and Spiritual Direction; daily Mass and time for prayer, silence and reflection; sports and meals with the consecrated women; vocational panel: Questions & Answers with consecrated women. Ages 16-30. For more information, contact Jill Swallow at vocation@inteducators.org or 401-949-2820. 2009 dates: May 22-25, and July 10-13

ShoreLines welcomes your questions and comments at questions@shorelines.org. If you do not specify otherwise, your question may be posted in the Vocations Q&A section.

To subscribe or send a gift subscription, send an email to subscribe@shorelines.org or visit www.vocation.com. To unsubscribe, send an email to unsubscribe@shorelines.org.

Copyright 2004, [Legion of Christ](#).

www.vocation.com