



Session 6 | Go Forth! Ethics in Action

Speakers in this video



The Rev. Anthony Turney

Ordained to the permanent diaconate in 1996, Anthony retired two years ago after a 30-year professional career in nonprofit management—with an 8-year stint as Deputy Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington. He was executive director of the NAMES Project Foundation, custodian of the AIDS Memorial Quilt during, as he puts it, "the five worst years of the epidemic." Anthony has had a 15-year relationship with Grace Cathedral where he is presently serving as a nonstipendary deacon.



Sr. Jean, CSF

A member of the Community of St. Francis, Sr. Jean came to San Francisco from England in 1974 to help found the American Province of CSF. She is actively involved in ministries to the poor in the city and currently serves CSF as Minister Provincial.



The Rev. Brian J. Barnes

Brian is a deacon in the Diocese of California where he serves as Associate Vicar of Holy Innocents in San Francisco. Brian leads the congregation in outreach to the community through a variety of ministry opportunities including the Sojourn Chaplaincy at General Hospital, which serves the indigent, and through soup kitchens and other ministries to the homeless. Brian was the coordinator for the first **via media** program ever run and continues to use **via media** as a foundational tool for teaching in the parish.



Marty Coleman

A long time peace activist, Marty is the founder of the Sustainable World ministry at All Saints, Pasadena, where she also coordinates the “Conscious Projector” project connecting film-making and justice making.

Production



The Rev. Rosa Lee Harden: Executive Producer

Rosa Lee is the Executive Producer of the **via media** series and has also been the parish priest at Holy Innocents’ Church in San Francisco for the past six years. A former newspaper and magazine publisher, Rosa Lee led the Jackson, Mississippi, Habitat for Humanity Chapter to become the largest per capita in the country, building more than 300 houses. She is motivated to communicate her faith through media that reaches people in parishes. The original **via media** series has been used by more than 1,000 parishes around the world, including more than 100 US dioceses as well as churches in Canada, Australia and Scotland.



Louise Brooks: Producer

An active member of All Saints Church, Pasadena, Louise is a life-long Episcopalian and communication professional. An Emmy-nominated television producer with a background in radio and media training her credits include the documentary film "Voices of Witness" and the original **via media** series.



J. Davey Gerhard: Curriculum Coordinator

Davey is a volunteer with Every Voice Network and a member of Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church in San Francisco. By day, Davey works as a public policy consultant with nonprofit organizations involved with economic development, social justice, and environmental sustainability. He earned his BA in Economics and Religion from Kalamazoo College, and his Master's in Public Policy from the Kennedy School. He has also done graduate work in Anglican Studies and Theology from the Episcopal Divinity School.

Session Summary

Celebrant Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People We will!

When we say these words at the end of the Presentation and Examination of the Candidates for Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation, we are making a very public statement of our responsibilities and our commitment to each other and to our community. We are engaging with them on a life-long journey of support and mutual love not only when we are gathered together in church, but in our daily life and work out in the world.

When we trace our lives from Sunday to Sunday, we notice the depth and breadth of our workings in the world. Some of us spend 40 or more hours of that week working to support ourselves and our families; many of us raise families or care for friends or loved-ones; still more of us volunteer in local and national organizations. There is no end to the variety of jobs, activities, and communities that our individual lives touch, and there is no limit to the ways in which we can use those relationships and affiliations to spread the work of God in the world.

In every way, the work in which we are engaged in our daily lives is as sacred as the time we spend together in the Eucharist or in Christian Education. Jesus gives us two great commandments: love God, and love neighbor, and teaches us that loving and serving are the same. When we feed the hungry, we are serving soup to our community. When we clothe the naked, we are providing shade to a sun-scorched earth. When we heal the sick, we are healing the nations.

When we promise to do all in our power to support each other in our life in Christ, we are promising that no one will have to do God's work alone. It is not solely the job of the Deacon to spread the Word of God. It is not solely the responsibility of the Priest to heal the sick and feed the hungry. It is not solely the role of the Bishop to lead the Church and to shape the policies that affect it. We are all called, and therefore all empowered to take our Baptismal promises into the world, to be transformed, to transform others.

The Community Gathers

From the Ordination of Deacons (adapted)

Make us, O Lord, modest and humble, strong and constant, to observe the discipline of Christ. Let our lives and teachings so reflect your commandments, that through us many may come to know you and love you. As your Son came not to be served but to serve, may we share in Christ's service, and come to the unending glory of him who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever.

The people in a loud voice respond Amen.

The Word is spoken

Reader

A reading from the Gospel of Luke

A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

Luke 22:24-27 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Community Shares

Your facilitator will lead you into a guided discussion on the readings and the video. Keep in mind that, much like the readings and sermon of a Eucharist, the material presented in this session is meant to foster discussion and dialogue.

The Dismissal

At the end of every Eucharist is the dismissal, the instructions from the Deacon to take what we have learned from the lessons and readings, and the community we have nurtured and shared out into the world with us. Often we overlook these important words, their meaning lost as we shuffle our service leaflets, search for our jackets, or decide which committee meeting we will be able to attend at coffee hour. These final moments bring us to confront our baptismal promises, carrying inward grace outward with us as we return to our jobs, our families, and our friends. Each session of this series will end with a dismissal, a chance for the community to take what we have shared together and shape our lives until we can meet again.

This week, The Dismissal feels a little different than in previous weeks. Your facilitator will have instructions to guide you.

The Dismissal ends in the traditional form.

Thanks be to God.

From the Easter Vigil through the Day of Pentecost “Alleluia, alleluia!” may be added to the dismissal.



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Take-Home Materials

Each week you will be provided some suggestions to put the promises made during Baptism into practical, modern practice. These are a few examples of activities, tasks, and challenges which can shape some of your interactions in the days to come.

Our public and private exploration of the Baptismal Covenant over the last few weeks brings us all to a new awareness of the gravity and the joys of the promises we have made in the past. Marty Coleman, says of her experience of the call to serve: “I could not go on living the way I was. I was transformed.” It is true for many of us; when we hear the words of Jesus, we are changed. When we see the great needs of the world around us, we feel called to make a difference. When we experience injustice or institutional bigotry, we are compelled to speak out.

As you leave this series, consider some of the following ways to stay involved with this theological and social conversation. Expand on this list as your community and awareness expands.

- Join your parish’s outreach committee, or volunteer to form one
- Identify needs in your community and ways that people in your parish can become involved in addressing those needs
- Pray for the people on your community’s prayer list often
- Join a local charity or volunteer your time somewhere
- Teach your children about the power of volunteering
- Become involved in politics at the local, state, or national level; working on campaigns, writing letters, or simply by being an informed voter
- Keep track of the places you shop and how you spend your money. Are you supporting local businesses? Do you agree with the ethics of the corporations you sustain when you buy their products?
- Support those in your community who are engaged in social ministry or outreach

When you put on Christ in Baptism and when you engage in the work of God through your covenant, your life changes. The power of engaging with the word of God in community is that we never have to do this hard work alone. We wish you well on the journey.