

[bit.listserv.ada-law](mailto:bit.listserv.ada-law)

Message from discussion [Which denomination?](#)

[View parsed](#) - [Show only message text](#)

From: "Rev. Jim Sutter" <IRIS...@AOL.COM>  
Subject: Re: Which denomination?  
Date: 1995/09/30  
Message-ID: <950930210439\_113386938@emout04.mail.aol.com>#1/1  
X-Deja-AN: 116865841  
sender: Americans with Disabilities Act Law <ADA-...@VM1.NODAK.EDU>  
comments: Gated by NETN...@AUVN.AMERICAN.EDU  
newsgroups: bit.listserv.ada-law

In a message dated 95-09-30 20:06:57 EDT, you write:

>Rev. Jim:  
>Which denomination do you belong to? Since you have a family  
>and someone mentioned Catholic Church, I am perplexed. I will  
>try to gather addresses of all church headquarters, too, if that  
>will help.  
>  
>

Ann - I am a minister by a new program of the Catholic Church. The Jesuits are running a relatively new program out of Modesto, CA, where they are coordinating training of ministers who would otherwise not qualify for service to their church. I would not normally qualify for further service to the Catholic Church, as I had already been commissioned a Eucharistic Minister, and the next step up would normally be to the Diaconate. BUT, the Catholic church will not accept anyone into the Diaconate program who is disabled. (I know, we need to work on them, too). So the long and the short of it is that applicants go through five years of lay ministry to

learn  
tenants and connonical law and biblical studies in whatever Christian religion they profess as their faith. The program is currently graduating  
Catholic Ministers, and Protestant and Episcopalian and Baptist Ministers.

As a Catholic minister, after I completed my five years of study, done  
through a combination of correspondence, online and attendance at St. Borromeo Seminary (here in Cleveland), while during the same five years  
working as a lay minister for the Catholic Church. After all that, then I  
was ordained, in Decembber, 1994. As a Catholic Minister, through a special  
dispensation of the Pope, I can be married and have a family. I am in a  
position higher than a Deacon, but slightly lower than a priest. I perform  
baptisms, celebrate mass, preside at First Communions, hear confessions,  
absolve sinners, bring communion, compassion and a sympathetic ear to the  
sick (they can't tell me anything I don't personally know about), say funeral  
masses, marriages, etc.

My very first, official act after being formally ordained last December was  
the saddest act of my life, I had to preside at the funeral mass of my closest friend, who had won his release from the pain of cancer..  
I am on  
the Chaplaincy staff at a large local hospital, and I am also just beginning  
to work on a new assignment that I requested as Catholic minister to a local  
prison.

I have been told over and over to slow down, and just last week, my primary  
physician asked me how I can keep going, considering how serious my disabilities are. My reply is that I was blessed by God when he gave

me all  
these disabilities so that I could understand what others are going  
through,  
and I really can empathize with them. God also allows me the grace  
to wake  
up each morning and to continue His work. When He finally calls me,  
I will,  
I hope, have offered some hope to others in similar situations. I  
also hope  
that I have been able to, in some small way, make a change for the  
better in  
this world.

I am not afraid of dying - I know that it will be an end to the daily  
pain,  
and that I will be welcomed into God's Heavenly Kingdom. However,  
despite  
the pain, despite my disabilities, I am in no great hurry to check  
out just  
yet. Rev Jim

[Create a group](#) - [Google Groups](#) - [Google Home](#) - [Terms of Service](#) - [Privacy Policy](#)

©2007 Google