

Clergy Workshop

Wednesday 3 October | 10:30am to 2:30pm

Epsom Girls Grammar School, Silver Road, Epsom, Auckland

Being Truly Pastoral Amid the Complexities of Life

Hosted by Father Shenan Boquet, President of Human Life International and Dr Brian Clowes, PhD, Director of Education and Research, this will be a crucial chance for clergy and seminarians to discuss practical and sensitive pastoral approaches to support families in the complex situations that are common today. Father Boquet and Dr Clowes collaborate with Vatican officials, (arch)bishops and Church leaders throughout the world.

This free workshop includes a cooked lunch and refreshments.

Please RSVP to Michael 021 825 955 or michael@fli.org.nz

The Challenges and Irreplaceable Role of Priests in the Service of Life and Family

“The Gospel of Life is at the heart of Jesus’ message. Lovingly received day after day by the Church, it is to be preached with dauntless fidelity as ‘good news’ to the people of every age and culture” (*Evangelium Vitae*, ¶1).

Each of us has been called by God to our own specific vocation and mission. We are called to share in the mission of Christ’s Church by living in the midst of the world and addressing all its problems and concerns with the divine message of salvation. Many people are confused about the fundamental choices in life and question what the world is, where it comes from, where we are going, what we must do in order to do good, how we should live and what the truly pertinent values are. There are numerous contrasting philosophies that come into being and disappear, creating confusion about the fundamental decisions on how to live; because collectively we no longer know from what and for what we have been made and where we are going.

The priest, living in the midst of the people, is called to *teach, sanctify and govern* through service. He is called to serve his brothers and sisters and is to be involved in the many various circumstances of life. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) describes Holy Orders as ‘*The sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time...*’ (CCC 1536). In the most profound way possible, ordination creates a new man, one who, if living his vocation (calling) faithfully, can say with St. Paul: ‘*It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.*’ (Galatians 2:20). He is changed not because of what he can do, but because of what he has become.

The Christian people desire and need to hear Church teaching and genuine ecclesial doctrine, through which they can renew their encounter with Christ who gives joy, peace and salvation. In *persona Christi* the priest, in his irreplaceable role, makes present, in the confusion and bewilderment of our times, the light of God’s Word, the light that is Christ himself in this our world.

~ Father Shenan J. Boquet
President of Human Life International



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