

CAVocation Voices A



Name: Fr. Christopher Herbert Gibson, C.P.

Congregation: The Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ. Our Congregation was founded by St Paul of the Cross in Italy in 1740, Italy and is today present in 60 countries.

How long in Vocation Ministry: 44 years...almost a lifetime!

Birthplace: I was born on a sugar plantation in La Esperanza, Province of Jujuy, in the northwest of Argentina.

Favorite Pastime / Hobby: I enjoy photography, including editing and preserving the pictures electronically. I also enjoy tracing my family roots and learning more about my ancestors -- including the old photographs, letters, newspaper clippings and written ancestral documents.

New favorite recipe: Kappa Vidiani, a South Indian dish made with "yucca" root, mutton and many spices to form a curry.

My favorite ice-cream: My favorite ice-creams are strawberry and chocolate mint.

What book is currently on your bedside table? "A Spirituality of Fund-raising" by Henri Nouwen.

Favorite TV Show: "Merlin", and currently "Moisés y Los Diez Mandamientos", followed by "Josué y La Tierra Prometida"

Favorite Movie: The older version of "Ben Hur" (1959)

Favorite Song: "I Believe"

Favorite Vacation Spot: Anywhere with beautiful lakes and snow-capped mountains -- like the North American Rockies, Southwest Argentina, or the Swiss Alps.

My favorite thing about being a religious Sister/Brother/Priest:

What I treasure most as a religious is sharing in community -- be it at table, in our common prayer, or spending time just being there for one another. My ministry flows from this lived experience of Christ and community.

Why be a religious today: I believe it is more urgent than ever that our lifestyle share a powerful message for our world: that the fullness of life is at the end of our earthly journey when Christ will be All in all. Consecrating our lives joyfully to Christ who is our only love, our only possession and our will through our vows of chastity, poverty and obedience is truly unique. This lifestyle prophetically challenges contemporary people searching on the perilous paths that seek self-gratification, wealth and power.

Previous ministries:

I've shared a variety of ministries in my life as a Passionist: leadership roles as local superior, director of students, novice master, administrator; assistant pastor in several parishes; preaching parish missions, novenas and retreats; composing music; youth ministry by being a chaplain in schools and directing scouts and other youth groups. At present, along with serving as Province Vocation Director I serve as director of postulants, and on some weekends preach to raise funds on behalf of "Food for the Poor".

What are you passionate about? I'm passionate about sharing my faith experience through preaching the love of Jesus Crucified -- and helping people, especially the younger generation, be enlivened and filled with joy by God's presence.

How do you relax? My favorite ways of relaxing are watching favorite programs on TV or online -- or simply enjoying the beauty of a location in a park which encourages my heart to beat with gratitude. I also enjoy relaxing by interacting with people who enjoy each other's presence.

List one BEST PRACTICE you'd like to share with your colleagues:

As I see it, the best practice is personal contact with young people. We vocation ministers are the embodiment of our vocation, living witnesses of our vocation. It's important that we vocation directors collaborate with Holy Spirit who is working in every heart to guide others on their journey to discover what God shares with us in life. We are invited to journey with young people as the Spirit is guiding them, be it to our religious communities or elsewhere.

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