

Application Process For The Order of the Shepherd's Heart

"Rege Quod est Devium – Bring Back the Wandering"

How to Get Started?

Send us an email at abbot@shepherds-heart.org and explain your situation and ask whatever questions you have. Generally, we will then want you to send us the following, either by email or snail mail as appropriate:

- ____1. Your name, address, telephone numbers (home, work, cell), and email address.
- ____2. A standard resume listing employment history, education, references et cetera.
- ____3. So that we can make sure you are who you say you are, send us a photograph (3x5 or larger), a photocopy of your drivers' license or other official photo ID, and your social security number. Use snail mail for these. We will protect your private information and maintain it in the central files of the Order of the Shepherd's Heart. It will not be released to others.
- ____4. A paper describing your faith journey. What is your religious background? Your spiritual history? What has brought you to where you are today? If you have had problems with other churches, what were they? Why did you leave them?
- ____5. All persons formally affiliating themselves with the Order of the Shepherd's Heart in any way shall through written statement set forth personal expectations and goals discerning their individual calling. Why are you considering membership in the Order of the Shepherd's Heart? What will you do with your membership? What ministries are you interested in? How do you plan to pursue these ministries? How do you plan to financially support yourself and your ministries?
- ____6. A paper addressing your personal history. What is your financial situation? Have you had any bankruptcies? What is your sexual orientation? Are you married? Are you living with someone? Have you been divorced? Have you had marriages annulled? Are you "in the closet" about anything? Are there any possible impediments to membership? Are you hiding anything from family, friends, and coworkers? What is the condition of your physical and mental health? While we do not discriminate we do like to know who we are dealing with.
- ____7. Photocopies of baptismal, confirmation, and ordination certificates; copies of educational transcripts, letters of excommunication from other jurisdictions, letters of reference, 4 personal 1 clergy.
- ____8. A criminal background check is required at the expense of the applicant. Usually this can be accomplished through the State Highway Patrol in the applicant's home state.
- ____9. A psychological evaluation is required at the expense of the applicant. Staff from Christ Catholic Church may be able to administer the evaluation.
- ____10. Insofar as there are necessary and usual administrative costs to facilitate the application process a \$50 application fee is required to accompany the application for processing.

You will be assigned a Formation Director to guide you through the rest of the process. or you may be shepherded through by the Abbot or by another Foster Parent within the Order of the Shepherd's Heart. **Please check off the items above as they are prepared to send. Incomplete applications will not be accepted without prior approval.**

May God guide you and bless you on your "anam turas", or soul journey, to serve Him and His people!
Go in the grace and favor of the Lord!

Mail To:
CHRIST Catholic Church
ORDER of the Shepherd's Heart
The Most Reverend Brian Ernest Brown, OSH
Post Office Box 9394 Fayetteville, AR 72703

The Order of the Shepherd's Heart

Applicant Profile

Please PRINT legibly. Fill in those areas that apply.

Title _____

Full Name _____

Position _____

Your Date of Birth _____

Church or Ministry Name _____

Church Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church Phone _____ Church Fax _____

Church E-mail Address _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Home Fax _____

Home E-Mail Address _____

Your Work # (If different than church or home number.) _____

Pager _____ Mobile _____

Spouse's Name _____ Spouse's DOB _____

Children _____ DOB _____

Children _____ DOB _____

Children _____ DOB _____

Children _____ DOB _____

Work History _____ Dates Employed _____

Work History _____ Dates Employed _____
Work History _____ Dates Employed _____

Personal Reference _____ Relationship _____
Address _____ Phone _____

Personal Reference _____ Relationship _____
Address _____ Phone _____

Personal Reference _____ Relationship _____
Address _____ Phone _____

Clergy Reference _____ Relationship _____
Address _____ Phone _____

Letter of Affirmation and Blessing From a Spouse

Date _____

Your Grace, Father Abbot Brian Ernest Brown, OSH,

By the signing of this document I am showing forth my support, affirmation, and blessing of (spouses name) _____, who is my _____ (relationship). Let it be known that my spouse has my full support and blessing in their decision to pursue their _____ (membership or ordination) in the Order of the Shepherd's Heart (circle one or both as they apply).

Signature _____
Print Name _____

Vow of Entrance into the Order

I, _____, inspired by the Holy Spirit to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ more intently by association with the Order of the Shepherd's Heart, by an act of my own free will, do covenant and promise to God and this Order in the presence of the Church, the members here assembled, and to you, Father Abbot, to live the life of charity, according to the holy Rule of the Order of the Shepherd's Heart, and to follow that Rule as far as possible in my station in life to the best of my ability for a period of one year. I further dedicate my life to that close union with God and intense love which is the fruit of a disciplined, committed Christian life.

Vow of Intent and Stability

In ainm an Achar agus an Mhic agus an Spioraid Naíomh. Amen.



To the Faithful in Jesus Christ throughout the World:

GREETING AND BENEDICTION

CANONICAL PROMISE OF INTENT AND STABILITY

BE IT KNOWN THAT I _____,

Before God and His Holy Church, having duly subscribed to, do make the following declaration of my most solemn vow and promise:

I believe that I have been called by the Holy Spirit to be set aside to the life and work as a servant of Jesus Christ in the Order of the Shepherd's Heart. I believe in one God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and do confess Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I am persuaded that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as interpreted under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, convey the Word of God, and contain all things necessary for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, and are the unique and authoritative standard for my faith and life.

I accept with reverence the spirit of witness of the Mothers and Fathers of the universal church, and the Seven Ecumenical Councils of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, and I do solemnly engage to conform to the Rule, Tradition, Discipline, and Worship of the Order of the Shepherd's Heart. I further pledge myself to support human dignity, and not to exclude from anyone, the ministry and sacraments of Christ, regardless of their condition or State of Grace.

I do further place myself, as the supreme act of humility and discipleship, under the spiritual care of the Abbot General and the Common Rule of Life of the Order of the Shepherd's Heart for as long as I maintain my formal association with the Order of the Shepherd's Heart.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have affixed my signature with prayer and devotion.

Name

Date