

Reverend Anthony Andres (Father Tony) Biography

Father Tony was born in Youngstown, Ohio, on April 21, 1938, as the youngest of seven children to Frances and Anton Andres. He attended parochial school for eight years before graduating from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1956.

He continued his education at DePauw University in Indiana on a full scholarship, graduating in 1960. Afterward, he pursued a career in real estate and became an active member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Youngstown. The rector of the parish recognized his potential for priesthood and encouraged him to meet with the Bishop of Ohio. During their conversation, Father Tony admitted he was unsure of his calling but agreed to attend Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia, if the bishop was willing to take a chance on him. He was ordained a priest in December 1964 after completing his seminary studies.

Father Tony began his ministry in the inner city of Cleveland, Ohio, serving in various parishes, working on the bishop's staff in youth ministry, and eventually becoming rector of St. Luke's Church. During this eleven-year period, he also attended John Marshall School of Law, earning a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree.

In 1976, Father Tony, his wife Emily Lewis, and their son Christopher moved to Carmel, Indiana, where he became rector of St. Christopher's Church. Over his 24-year tenure, he helped grow the congregation from 150 to 900 members and oversaw the construction of two new parish worship and education buildings. Having spent many years in Carmel, his family cherishes fond memories of their time there.

Following his retirement in 2000, he and Emily relocated to Afton Mountain, Virginia. However, he was soon called out of retirement to serve as priest-in-charge at Holy Cross Church in Batesville—a role he initially agreed to take on for two years but ultimately held for seventeen. In 2018, he was invited to assist the bishop of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, where he served two parishes at opposite ends of the island for six weeks.

Upon returning to Virginia in 2019, Father Tony was asked to become priest-in-charge at St. John the Baptist in Ivy. Once again, he committed to serving for two years but remains with the congregation to this day. He simply cannot refuse a call from the Lord.

Beyond his ministry, Father Tony and Emily are avid travelers, having visited Bhutan, Peru, Croatia, Denmark, Italy, England, and France. They enjoy hiking on their mountain, participating in a book club, singing, writing poetry, and volunteering with the Waynesboro Lions Club and Valley Voice. They also make periodic pilgrimages to the Monastery of Christ in the Desert in New Mexico to meditate and pray with the Benedictine monks.