

Cannaday Biography

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

My name is Brian Cannaday, priest in the Episcopal Church and current Canon to the Ordinary for the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas. My hope in the words that follow is to share just a brief glimpse of my story and the story of my family.

I am a native Texan and a life-long Episcopalian, having grown up the kid of an Episcopal priest in South Central Texas (San Antonio). Upon high school graduation, my original plan was to study choral music with the goal of becoming a high school choir director. Though God had other ideas for me (as God often does), music remains a great joy and blessing in my life. Early in college, before discerning a call to the priesthood, I began serving as a youth minister in the Episcopal Church. This led to a sixteen-year career as a vocational youth minister in several congregations and dioceses across Texas. Towards the end of my time as a youth minister, the Holy Spirit laid priestly discernment on my heart, and I began a formal discernment process with the Diocese of West Texas. During this discernment, I completed a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas at San Antonio. Shortly thereafter, was invited to enter priestly formation at Sewanee, where my family and I lived for three years and I was awarded a Master of Divinity.

I am married to the former Crystal Partin, who is also a native Texan. We recently celebrated our 27th year of marriage. During her college years in San Antonio, she was a peer minister for The University of Texas at San Antonio in the Diocese of West Texas, and also served as an administrative assistant at the Bishop Jones Center (the Diocese of West Texas headquarters). Upon graduation from The University of Texas at Arlington, Crystal entered the field of education, leading to an ongoing 23-year career as a schoolteacher in both public and private schools. While she currently teaches 5th grade math, her happy place is teaching 4th math and science. During my priestly formation at Sewanee, Crystal served as the Parents Morning Out coordinator for the School of Theology for 2 years. She also spent time in the seminary dean's office, serving as an administrative assistant. Crystal is an avid reader, a better-than-novice artist, and a faithful student of scripture. In her spare time, she travels with me around the Diocese, helping to do the work of congregational development and sowing seeds of relationships and community.

Our one and only child is Hailey Grace. She is an 18-year-old recent graduate of Clear Creek High School. Hailey began attending Texas Tech University in August of 2026, entering the Honors College of Education with the hope of becoming a high school English teacher. Hailey is a gifted academic student, an avid reader, a faithful servant of The Church, and a talented writer who authentically cares for all people.

May the power of God, the love of Jesus, and the wisdom of Holy Spirit continue to guide the very good people of the Diocese of Tennessee as you discern the calling of your next bishop.

Faithfully,

Brian+