

## Meet Father Chris Luoni ...



**Ask Fr. Chris.... Grow in(to) your faith.**

Photo by Rick Walker

**F**ather Chris Luoni knows what it's like to own a house, find a job, pay bills, consider marriage (twice!) and find a direction in life. He believes the experiences he had prior to entering seminary help him identify with situations in which young adults find themselves.

Father Chris grew up in Massillon, Ohio, the youngest of four children of a Catholic dad and a Presbyterian mom. He graduated from Central Catholic High School in Canton and obtained a degree in business administration/marketing; with a minor in information tech, from the University of Akron.

He was 34 when he entered seminary, having worked several years in marketing and human resources for a direct marketing firm and later for a plastic fabricating company. He also was a franchise owner of Mad Science, a company offering fun and educational science programs and products for kids. He was ordained in 2005 for the Diocese of Youngstown.

Father Chris has served in several ministry

areas, including as pastor of the University Parish Newman Center in Kent (his current parish assignment), as diocesan director of campus ministry and as diocesan vocations director. He hopes young people reading his responses to their very important questions will understand that God wants the very best for them. This understanding can only be achieved when one totally surrenders his or her life to God.

In answering tough questions, Father Chris is not afraid to challenge when it is needed, while showing compassion to those who are working through difficult situations. "This is what Christ did and what we are all called to do – and with great love," he says.

"We must also understand that while faith will not always *answer* all our questions, our faith does give us the ability to *live with* our questions. Life's answers are not always easy, sometimes uncomfortable, usually a challenge but always right when they are rooted in faith and the love of Christ," he says.