NATIONAL CATHOLIC REPORTER
Published on *National Catholic Reporter* (http://ncronline.org)

# Bruce Friedrich, vice president of PETA

Jeannette Cooperman | Aug. 29, 2008

Bruce Friedrich

Five years ago, *Details*

**What was the rudest shock of growing up?**
Learning about global poverty -- that one in five people aren't taking in enough calories to function. I had a lot of trouble processing that. I still do.

**Anything you once believed that you've done a 180 on?**
For a long time I thought that eating other animals' corpses was a reasonable way to sustain myself. Now I think it's the height of immorality.

**Why?**
Isaac Bashevis Singer called speciesism the highest form of racism because among God's community of beings, other animals are the least able to defend themselves.

**What religious ritual is most meaningful for you?**
Communion. And I like the Jesuit practice of ending your day with an evaluation of your day. You rededicate yourself.

**Anything about conventional morality strike you as odd?**
The idea that the suffering of women and children is worse than the suffering of anybody else is a curious construct.

**What do you regret most about yourself?**
Vanity.

**What's the best advice anyone ever gave you?**

The advice my parents gave me was pretty picture-perfect: “If you’re not going to remember what’s bothering you in a week, it’s not worth getting angst-ridden about it.”

**What gives you strength, sustains you through rough times?**
My wife, Alka Chandna.

**What’s the secret to a good marriage?**
Honesty.

**And the sign of a bad one?**
Feeling like you need to hide something from your partner.

**What would you want at your last meal?**
Black French roast equal-exchange coffee or a pint of Hop Devil bitter beer. It’s an award-winning microbrew I’ve only found in a liquor store in Highland Park, N.J.

**What makes you angry?**
Progressives who quote Gandhi and Tolstoy and then pay people to abuse and kill animals. It’s so vastly inefficient to cycle crops through animals -- and it’s the No. 1 source of global warming -- and Al Gore doesn’t even mention it in his movie. He tells people to change their light bulbs, not the way they eat.

*National Catholic Reporter September 5, 2008*

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**Source URL (retrieved on *07/10/2014 - 21:38*):** http://ncronline.org/news/people/bruce-friedrich-vice-president-peta