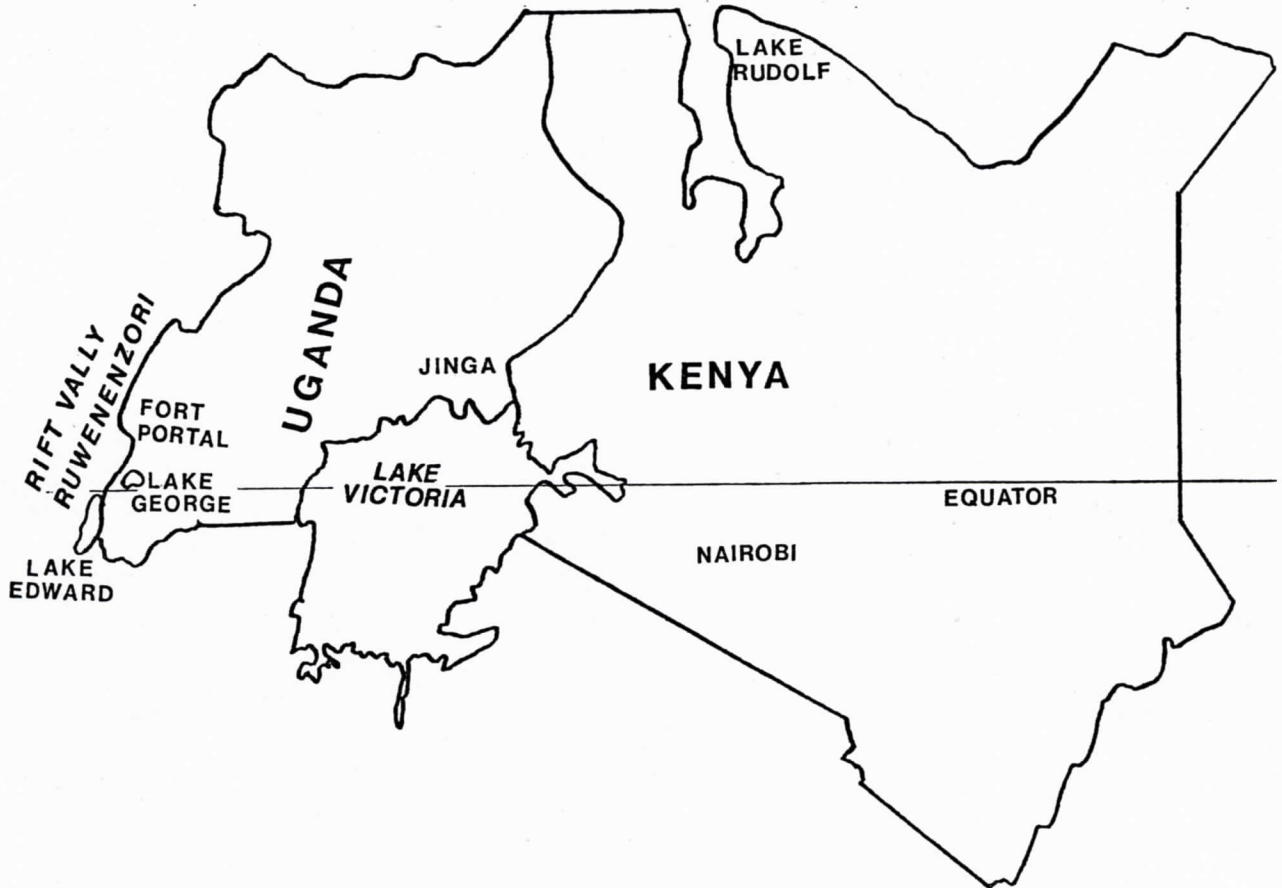


Midwest Bits and Pieces

February 1, 1993



MY UNFOLDING WAY

I was up to Hoima last week looking over the carpentry and brick works. On the way we ended up with a flat. No it was not a nail, but a bolt.

Aids is present, most of the people I work around are slim. Many are weak: no interest and can't work.

Today I ended a Zen retreat of three days for five African Sisters, one White Sister and a Trappist. Next retreat will be in January if all works out.

Today the hail came down like marbles around five in the afternoon. I thought the roof would cave in. The banana leaves look like the ends of a straggly mop, parts of the ground were covered white.

My work has been in the carpenter shop getting some of the machinery to work. They have some saws and planers working but not as they should. Sawdust will pile up covering, at times, the motors. They use a small shovel to keep it away from the saw. The planer will put out shavings over two meters high in about three or four hours. The same little short handle shovel is used to load a wheel barrow that is pushed across the lane some one hundred meters away then is set on fire and the smoke comes back into the carpenter shop. With fans on to take out the dust and smoke coming in from across the way it will send you out of the building. I found a saw with a 40 mm center hole on a 30 mm shaft. Also circular saws that took on the shape of an egg. When I went

into the shop this morning I found the main saw that is used for ripping with a cross cut blade on it. There are holes in the floor that are a foot or more deep. The quality of work is very bad. Lumber, is not seasoned, I have seen water come off the wood after going through the planer. They say that there is a lot of stealing and that there is no money. The thing is so complicated, not only the carpentry shop, but everything. As Grace Stuart Ibingira wrote a full page article in the "New Vision", "Moral decay is worse than Aids scourge." The country is in a bad way. Every job I have tried to do runs into complications,. A job that may take but an hour can run into days and often you find it can't be done. My room smells like a gasoline station. This morning I found a leak in my kerosene lantern.

August 30, 1992

Thinking there would be electricity in the carpentry shop, I went down there to make myself a bed. No power. So I set out to make a towel rack, a piece of wood and seven spindles. With hand saw, plane, an old set of wood bits. Little did I know the wood I was carrying was that of a twisted grain. I found a broken vice. After some management I got the wood to stay in the vice. I would run the plane down or with the grain only to find it was soon coming at me. Have you ever tried to put a hole in a piece of wood with a blunt bit? Disaster. I was exhausted at the end of the job that took most of the day. But, then, we do have a towel rack in the kitchen. So, trying to keep out of the holes and the chickens coming in to check on my work and looking over this white man (Magungo) the towel rack looks more like a cattle feeding rack. But, under the yellow light of the lantern you don't notice it. I am always glad to hang my towel. It hovers over our water filter.

August 31, 1992

You will find a 60 watt bulb blinding after a night by your lantern. Today I drove our 4 wheel drive to Ruwenzori National Park. On your way there you cross the equator. The park is located between Lake George and Lake Edward. The road is macadam, with many holes. I call them full or empty. A full hole is one that has been filled with red dirt; the empty holes are just that, a gaping hole! From a distance you can't tell, so when you get your Pajero going 80 kilometers an hour and you see a red hole, you don't have much time to decide whether it is full or empty. We drive on the left hand side of the road. . It is not too bad. However, every time I signal a turn I put on the wipers. When I went down for my driving permit, I kept turning on the wipers. When they asked me for my three photos, I proudly produced three colored photos. I got a sharp, "This won't do", along with a shower. I did not have the courage to use my sleeve. So back to town to get my black and white photo. The photo shop was unbelievable. How they could get a photo out of it was difficult for me to understand. Out came the camera that may have been in some museum before it got to Uganda. Well, it took a good picture, one I did not mind looking at. The driving inspector accepted the pictures and was extremely kind. I now have my Uganda driving license. On our way to Ruwenzori Park we went through three military road blocks. I have seen keb, zebra, water buffalo, elephants, lions, giraffes, hippotomases and birds which you don't imagine and can't imagine till you see them. Truly a great pheonomen.

September 20, 1992

Brother Alan Gugal and I just back from Bundibuguo . We spent an overnight. Sr. Mary and Sr. Madellyn run an outpost clinic. From here you get a great view of the Rift Valley. When we drove to Bundibiguo we gave a ride to a woman who was going home to die. Brother Deo in two days took two bodies in their coffins. Father Cornelius took his neighbors, man and wife, back home after a visit here at Virika Hospital. AIDS.

I just moved my lantern a little closer and then the thought came, why not put a mirror behind. Yeah, more light.

Have you ever seen the moon lying flat on its back? Last night, in looking at the full moon, I noticed I was looking straight up. As I sat, that full moon night, I thought it would be like any other full moon night. No, it was not. It came straight at me and went over my head and set behind me.

It was September 4th. Father John Webaba and I drove in a blue pickup truck to Wachuchu, an out

post from Butitti. As we approached, the people applauded, beat drums and there was much shouting. Father went into the mud church. I was served chi (tea) in a cup from China. The church was typical, but this one had a tin roof. The cow dung floor was coming up in part. I thought how I could spend time alone there. After Mass, there was a festal and dinner which you eat with your fingers. It was going on five and we had a long ride. The people were leaving. Some had gotten into the truck. I got in the back, leaving room for two old women. Back at Buttiti Parish I give thoughts of yesterday's events. Just beyond me, the Uganda National birds are picking over a field, some forty or so nest on the compound. And how the old woman, as she talked about her grand children buried at the front of the house, "God will have it so." I can see her still. "Who am to question the will of God?"



How do we sin?
 On my way to church I
 saw not, Christ who-
 Why am I so blind?

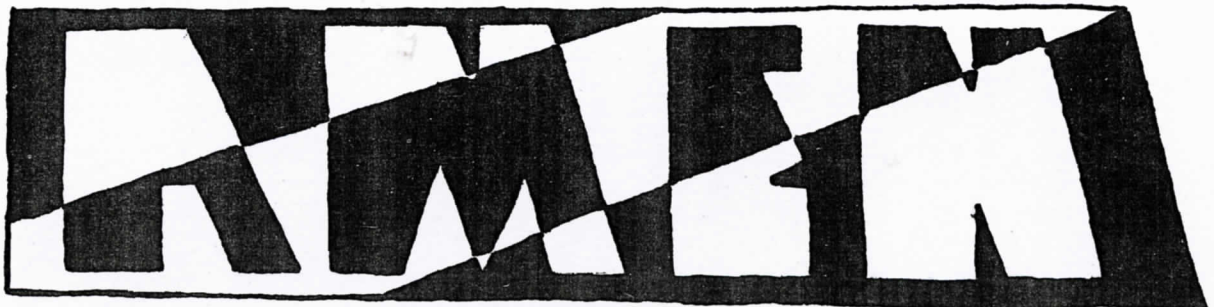
August 15, 1992

What does one do!

-----knelt before me!

As Brother John and myself set out for Lake Saka to get water and a shower there was a man under a tree by our door, a man of wide eyed and lips round, that had not spoken for a long time. He asked for soap and clothing. Our cook came out and could only understand that he was from a neighboring parish. No one knew this man. Brother John and I drove off leaving him in our dust. "John, what does one do when such a one comes to the door?" "They are always at the door." We got water and cleaned ourselves up. John picked people up along the way and also on the return. Near the prison we picked up an old woman and here grandchild. He was holding a chicken. I helped the woman with her wicker bag, which I could hardly lift, as she placed the donut like banana leaf ring on her head. We left her by the Panda River at the foot of Fort Portal where she was to cross the broken bridge and wait for her bus to Kampala. As we drove into the yard the man was still there. We got the water into the house. The man asked again for soap and clothing. I gave Brother John one of my heavy T-shirts, "Give this to him." We took him over to the parish house. As we talked, this man approached going down on one knee and then squatting. We left the man thus while the priest questioned him. It was only as I lay in bed that night that it came to me. This was a man from the prison at Saka. I visited there some time ago, he wore prison clothes. I saw how they went on one knee as guards presided over them before they went through the gate. I saw one squat all afternoon by our novitiate which was one mile from the prison. The "New Vision," Saturday August 15, 1992. "Some 1558 prisoners throughout Uganda have been pardoned by President Yoweri Museuehi."

Brother Bernard Klim



ALASKAN CRUISE 1992: THAD GOTTEMOLLER & JOE DUDEK.

Thursday, September 17:

Took off half hour late. Flight was relatively smooth to Seattle. Had apple pancakes for breakfast. The tramway in Seattle Airport was confusing but, with asking a lot of questions, we made it okay. Seattle to Vancouver flight took 35 minutes. We were met by the Princess representative and passed through customs, then boarded the Island Princess. Our suite of rooms is fabulous. Flowers, pictures on the walls, drinks, fresh fruit, refrigerator with ice, beer and soft drinks inside, a wall safe, and all free with compliments of the captain. We had a safety drill, then set sail at 5:15 p.m. It's very cool and windy on the deck temperature about 55 degrees. Ate supper at 8:15 p.m. Had pork chops. We were told the midnight snack looked like a full meal. Food is served 13 times daily from 6:30 a.m. until midnight.

Friday, September 18:

It rained during the night, but we slept well and didn't know it until arising. Walked a mile around the ship to gain a 50 cent certificate to purchase ship products. Had Wheatena for breakfast. We took part in a putting contest on a rug and won 50 cent certificates. Saw the movie, "Star Trek VI" and later on the stage show, "Our Town."

Saturday, September 19:

Had eggbeaters for breakfast, chicken cacciatore at noon. The ship docked in Juneau at 2:30 p.m. Our first stop. I rode a helicopter to the Mendenhall Glacier, while Brother Thad took a bus tour of the town of Juneau. The glacier is an immense mass of ice about 3000 feet deep, 1 1/2 miles wide, and about 12 miles long. Presently it's melting about 30 feet a year. One purpose of our trip was to view glaciers first-hand. The captain delivered a plate of buffalo wings to our cabin. Our rooms were located on the seventh deck. There were nine decks in all. Saw the evening show featuring a comedian-magician, followed by London Pub Night.

Sunday, September 20:

Brother Thaddeus held a religious service for the Catholics on the ship. It was well received by the 50 people who attended. It was there that we found out that ND beat MSU 52-31. We had breakfast on the Sun Deck. The temperature was only in the 40's there, so everything cooled off quickly. We cruised past glaciers all day. We saw 3 incidents of "calving". This involves a section of glacier breaking off and plummeting into the water with a large splash, accompanied by noise similar to thunder. A gala buffet was served on deck. It would have been a typical Brother Rock soiree, only larger. The line was so long we didn't attend. The captain delivered a plate of chips and dip to our room. We saw the show, "Broadway Showtime," in the evening.

Monday, September 21:

Arrived in Skagway at 8 a.m. Ate breakfast on the Sun Deck with the temperature at 40 degrees. Took a small gauge track railroad train ride to the summit of White Pass. This was the route taken by gold miners in the 1898 Klondike Gold Rush. As we rode the train and looked down, the terrain looked very treacherous. We walked through the town which had the old time flavor. We paid a visit to the Dahl Medical Clinic where Brother Frederick Raehsler works. He was away in Minnesota attending the funeral of a relative. We left Skagway at 4 p.m. Before supper, the captain had a plate of french fried shrimp delivered to our room. Had pork loin roast for supper and the head waiter made cherry jubilee for our desert. Saw the evening show consisting of magic and comedy by Mark Hendrickson and songs by Cass Taylor.

Tuesday, September 22:

Had breakfast on Sun Deck. Temperature around 50 degrees. The early fog caused the captain to sound the fog horn every few minutes. Saw the first whale today and some seals. The ship docked in Ketchikan at 1 p.m. We took a bus tour of the city, which included stops at a Salmon fish hatchery and Totem Pole State Park. This city has a population of 14,000 during the summer and 8,000 during the winter. It rains 265 days a year. The average yearly rainfall is 14 feet. The average summer temperature is 65 degrees. The captain sent us a complimentary tray of caviar, shrimp, salmon canapes. We had pheasant and beef tenderloin for supper, and baked Alaska for desert. Delicious. Saw the show presentation, "Tin Pan Alley." It consisted of songs and dances from the early part of this century. We moved our clocks ahead from Yukon to Pacific time.

Wednesday, September 23:

Had breakfast on the Sun Deck rather than in our normal eating place. The Coral Lounge. We participated in a putting tournament for coupons. We did okay, but didn't win the top medals. Before noon we passed an Indian settlement called Bella Bella. We saw porpoises jumping around in the water. Saw a whale while returning from a cancelled doubles ping-pong tournament. It was foggy, misty and cold. Temperature, 56 degrees. We attended a lecture on tipping and came to our rooms to make out the gratuity envelopes for the Stateroom Steward, Head Waiter, Assistant Waiter, Maitre 'D and Table Captain. The captain delivered rolled cocktail sausages - that is pigs in blankets to our room. We had our last supper in the Coral Room and gave our tips to the designated people. They expressed grateful appreciation. Saw the variety show, "Love Boat Legends." It consisted of people impersonating Shirley Temple, Pavoratti, Dolly Parton, Michael Jackson, The Temptations and John Travolta. It was a riot, but enjoyable. They were "mouthing" the songs. Left Island Princess at 8:30 a.m. Arrived at O'Hare at 7:30 p.m. It was a wonderful cruise.

VOCATION STATISTICS: KENEDY DIRECTORY 1992

The recently released 1992 edition of the Catholic Directory offers the following statistics dealing with religious vocations in the United States:

	1968	1978	1988	1992
Priests	59,803	58,485	53,522	52,277
Brothers	12,261	8,460	7,069	6,503
Sisters	176,341	129,391	106,912	99,337
Deacons		2,498	8,512	10,384

Tri-Conference Retirement Office

Of the 232 Congregations responding, the following percentages have dealt with, or will address these retirement issues within the next 3 years:

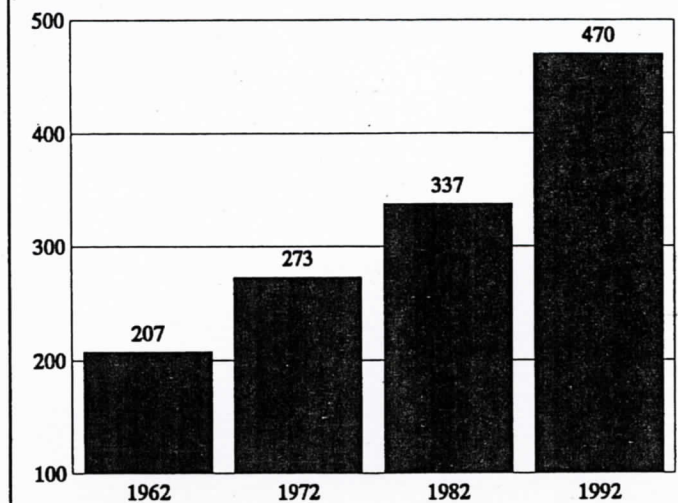
- 16% Down-sizing of retirement facilities
- 23% Licensure of infirmary
- 52% Participation in collaborative retirement project
- 57% Expansion of retirement facilities
- 67% Member enrollment in SSI (Not necessarily all members)
- 83% Establishment of restricted retirement fund
- 84% Long-range planning for retirement

Some Common Concerns

1. Lack of facilities to provide total nursing care
2. The length of time that total nursing care facilities will be needed is limited; and it is not cost effective to staff and/or build facilities for a short-term need (retirement needs will likely peak within the next 10 to 20 years),
3. Current buildings are often not suitable for retirement facilities without costly renovations,
4. It may not be cost effective to staff an infirmary for a small number of members,
5. If there is space available in other existing facilities, duplication of services can be avoided,
6. With rising health care costs, collaboration may assist in cost effectiveness,
7. There are few Religious able to continue to care for their own, so alternatives must be found,
8. Religious men are experiencing a longer life expectancy, so many are addressing the nursing care issue from a new perspective,
9. Members may prefer to retire in a specific geographic area which is away from the community retirement center,
10. SSI/Medicaid may be needed to finance health care; therefore licensed facilities will be used for sick elderly,
11. There is a greater recognition of common needs and a willingness to share resources to alleviate those needs.

The reasons listed represent some of the factors that are motivating religious to work collaboratively to provide retirement care for the elderly religious. The availability of assets, whether in the form of finances or facilities, are often central to the discussion

NUMBER OF U.S. CATHOLICS FOR EACH MEMBER OF A RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY 1962-1992



Compiled by Sheila King Public Relations, Inc.

"A Colloquium"

by Brother James Greteman, C.S.C.

A small herd of Jerseys had come to the barnyard for the annual "Cow-Chip Colloquium" (conversations). The four Jerseys whose names were Gaius, Persephone, Valerius, and Pionysus, agreed to have the colloquium in the grove where there was a cool breeze.

ALL THE BARNYARD animals waited with much expectation for the choice morsels of knowledge. As usual the adult animals were warning the adolescent animals to behave. At long last these wise animals from the East spoke.

GAIUS SAID, "A group of you are sitting on deck-chairs on a boat looking backward and at first the water is very rough."

PERSEPHONE, "If you look further backward the water is very calm."

VALERIUS, "If you look forward the water is very calm. Which way would you look?"

AN ADOLESCENT yells out, "I would have trouble just setting up the deck-chairs." The four Jerseys gave cold looks while some of the younger animals were smiling.

DIONYSUS SAID, "Reform, reform, reform, reform...."

Another adolescent yells out, "And you will wake up deformed." This time the entire group of animals were laughing.

Obviously the colloquium was not going well, like many of the things when we have great expectations do not likewise go well. Sometimes it is better to lower our expectations.

December 30, 1992

What follows is a brief summary of the general administration's work thus far in response to the mandate of the 1992 general chapter.

Decree 1: REFLECTION ON LIFESTYLE AND QUALITY OF LIFE: A circular letter will be published in January 1993, providing material for reflection on this issue and inviting the community to respond. This letter is an initial step in a process of reflection within the congregation.

Decree 2: DIALOGUE WITH THE HOLY SEE ON THE QUESTION OF "BROTHER AS SUPERIOR GENERAL": The council has reviewed the implications of this decree. On November 11, 1992 Father Grou wrote to the prefect of the Congregation for Religious (CICLSAL) requesting a meeting. Thus far it has not been possible to set a definite date for this meeting. Father Grou continues to be in contact with the prefect's office to determine when this meeting might be scheduled.

Recommendation 7: COLLABORATION IN FORMATION: Father Leo D'Souza has assumed responsibility as Coordinator of Formation. He has visited India to review the efforts toward reorganizing the formation programs. In December and January he will visit Haiti and in April he will visit the houses of formation in the United States.

Decree 4: PLANNING: Brother Patrick Sopher is the Coordinator of Planning. He has gathered information from all provinces and vice-provinces on their planning efforts. He also made a brief visit to the United States to gather additional information and to attend meetings. As the planning process progresses, further information on the specific steps to be taken will be communicated.

Decree 5: THE ACADIAN PROVINCE: The substance of this decree was fulfilled on October 12 when the Acadian province became the District of Acadia. Father Louis Joseph Boudreau is the district superior. A follow-up will take place during the visit to Canada in April.

Decree 6: CANADA AND FRANCE: Preparations for the general visits to these areas are underway. Documents to be used during the visits are being prepared. The visit to France will be in March and to Canada in April.

Decrees 7-8: INDULT IN VIEW OF ELECTING CAPITULANTS AT PROVINCIAL AND GENERAL CHAPTERS: Decrees 7 and 8 necessitated requests for indults to suspend a part of Constitution 7, paragraphs 95 and 99. In a letter dated November 17, 1992, Archbishop Errazuriz, Secretary of the Congregation of Religious informed us that this indult is granted.

OTHER MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

We decided to visit those areas of the congregation where changing situations call for a careful evaluation. In December and January, Father Leo will review the formation programs in Haiti and Father Grou will also visit that area. During this same time, Brother Joel and Father Robert will make visit the district of Rwanda. They will also use this occasion to visit the religious in East Africa. In February, Father Grou and Brother Patrick will visit the district of West Africa.

NEW FOR 1993!

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NEW FOR 1993

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Study Guide Includes:

- Process For Group Use
- Reflection/Discussion Questions For Each Video
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Look What They're Saying!

Sr. Margaret Fitzer, MF
Executive Director,
Religious Formation
Conference

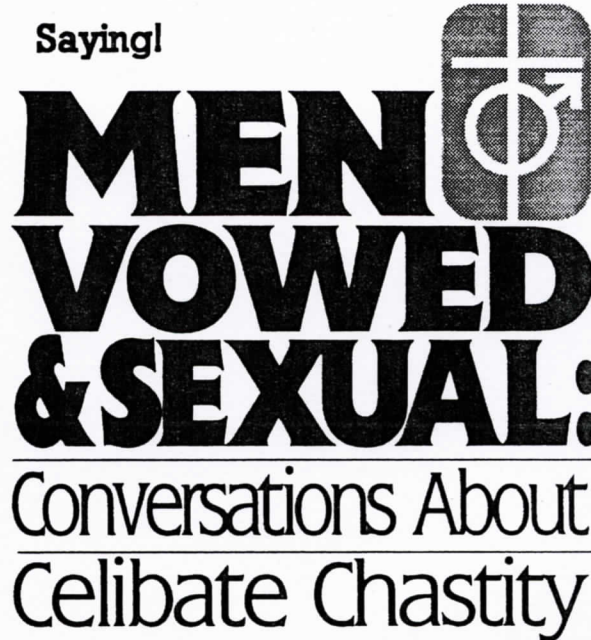
Although this series presupposes something of a history within religious life, the tapes would be useful in a formation program when dealing with issues of sexuality and for understanding the lived experience of others. Told from a male perspective and based on the accumulated wisdoms of mid-life, the tapes honestly explore sexuality and chastity, and are a timely resource for those intent on negotiating life's challenges in this essential area.

Michael Crosby, OFM Cap
Provincial Agent,
Corporate Responsibility
Program,
Province of St. Joseph

We might not have been helped to be celibate in the past, but this series reverses that tragedy. It offers a great way to address the vow that has been "taboo" for too long to the detriment of too many. As we watched, we began interacting with those speaking from the television. This led to us speaking to each other. This was/is as good, or better, a part of the program as the video themselves.

Rev. Robert J. Wister
Executive Director,
Seminary Department, NCEA

This series, while prepared by and for religious, is a useful instrument for education for celibacy in diocesan seminaries. Mentors and advisors will find the study guide provides useful direction for group reflection. The engaging and frank conversations about the many aspects of the celibate commitment will stimulate discussion among seminarians. The reflection which this series encourages can assist seminarians and priests in their growth in the celibate life.



MEN VOWED & SEXUAL:
Conversations About
Celibate Chastity

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