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File  
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Gordon is a Capuchin at St. Anthony's in Hudson. He is also a Senior at St. Anselm's College majoring in psychology. He spoke with me two years ago about the possibility of applying to the diocese. Now he claims that he is ready and able to make that decision. He discussed with his director and he said that they would support whatever decision he made.

I asked him why he decided to leave the Capuchins to consider diocesan priesthood. He said it was because of his realization that he could not live the "community way" of life. That was being stressed more and more, yet he at the same time had a lot of inner conflict with it. He did specify that he did not have interpersonal relationship problems.

I asked him if he still wanted to become a priest and why. He said yes - because of "the call" and personal interest. Along with this question I asked what he could bring to diocesan ministry in N.H. He said listening to people's problems. The desire to work with them.

I asked if he realized that most of his ministry could be spent alone in a small parish. He said yes and he saw no problem with this. He has done summer ministry in Groveton and kept himself more than busy.

I asked him about celibacy. Celibacy is something he accepts and chooses because he could not do justice to ministry and marriage. He also feels a need of the freedom which celibacy brings.

I asked him for personal history. He's from Lynn, Mass. One of 4 children and next to the oldest. His parents are in their late 40's and in ill health. They are divorced and remarried. Gordon is the only catholic in the family. He made his First Communion and Confirmation when he was in high school. Because of the situation at home he has never really spent more than a few days at a time there.

Gordon asked about seminaries. He would like to go to Boston because of the availability of courses in pastoral counseling and also because of his parent's health. I mentioned disadvantages to that. One big disadvantage would be his narrowing down his view of church.

Gordon also mentioned that he had asked to be released of his vows. He expects to receive the permission sometime in June or early July. This means he is not sure about summer employment. I offered the possibility of summer camp. He has thought of various counseling or testing positions.

We also discussed his psychological tests and admission to the diocese.

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Personal Reaction:

1. I found very little mention of spirituality or following Christ.
2. Strong desire to go into the counseling area! Too strong?
3. Why such a strong desire for counseling?
4. No family history of epilepsy or diabetes. What in the family led him to counseling?

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