

INTERVIEW OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR
WITH
REV. THOMAS FORRY (BOSTON)

JULY 17, 1984:

I interviewed Tom this afternoon at 2:00. I asked him to give me a brief resume of his life and of the events that brought him here to Saint Michael's Center for this Evaluation.

He spoke briefly about his life and his ministry. He seems to be quite happy with his ministry in the Archdiocese - his work as Army chaplain, as hospital chaplain, etc. I got the very real impression that his life of prayer is not that good. He feels that he has a good relationship with Jesus and that he is able to "talk" with Him easily...but I had to wonder if he "listens" to Him!

His Profile shows by all the High and Moderately High scores that he really needs to look at how his life is going (the higher the scores, the more work is needed).

Like many other priests, Tom seems to have the impression that the spiritual life is equated with one's life of prayer. Spirituality is the totality of our lives and not just how good or how bad our prayer life is. Tom really needs to look at the totality of his life and not be content just because he has a good pastor, good parish, good Archbishop, etc. He has lived a double life for a long time now and he really needs to look at the values he gives to God, his ministry, etc and find out exactly where his value system lies and then set up his life accordingly.

Salvatore L. Busca, s.P.
Spiritual Director
July 17, 1984

INQUIRING

High scorers on this scale appear to be "searchers" with a strongly intellectual orientation. They read widely in philosophy and psychology and are probably perceived by others as bright and competent. Their investigative bent and their appreciation for the complexities of a given question, however, make it difficult for them to commit themselves wholeheartedly to one side or another of an issue. The question of faith, therefore, is a very real one for many, probably because it inevitably involves a commitment of belief without compelling evidence.

The issue of commitment which entails trusting something or someone greater than themselves causes tension in other areas as well. They are concerned about the future - who will take care of them in their retirement and whether they will have enough money. Although they function well in most capacities, they miss feeling intensely involved and excited about life. They probably feel lonely and wonder if they have chosen the right path in life.

These concerns sometimes coalesce into anger directed at God. They may feel betrayed or let down by Him or misdirected by others, and thus even less likely to entrust themselves to someone else.

THE SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE FOR TOM FOCUSES ON COMMITMENT - THE MOVEMENT AWAY FROM OBSERVATION AND INFORMATION GATHERING TO DECISION MAKING AND ACTION. THIS INVOLVES BOTH THE RISK OF BEING WRONG AND OF TRUSTING IN ANOTHER, BE IT GOD OR ANOTHER HUMAN BEING. HIS ANGER AND FRUSTRATION OVER HIS PRESENT SITUATION CAN SERVE AS A POSITIVE FORCE PROVIDING THE ENERGY AND DRIVE FOR FUTURE GROWTH.

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SEARCHING

People who score high on this scale seem to be seeking a more personal contact with God, one which is based on experience and is more emotionally satisfying than what they currently have. High scorers are groping for an appropriate context within which their personal encounter with the Divine can occur. Traditional ways do not seem to be working for them. They express dissatisfaction with formal worship, scripture and meditation as a means whereby God makes His presence know to them. Nor do they seem to find Him in the less formally religious context of people, daily events or nature.

Although they value emotions and experience in a spiritual context, their appreciation of them appears rather vague and unspecific. At this stage it is probably more notional than real, based more on a dissatisfaction with their current spiritual practices than on actual experience with a new orientation. They nevertheless display an awareness of and openness to a richer dimension of religious experience than they currently possess.

THE SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE FOR TOM APPEARS TO BE TO OPEN HIMSELF MORE FULLY TO THE REALITIES OF HIS OWN EMOTIONAL LIFE AND TO MOVE AWAY FROM A MERELY INTELLECTUAL TO A REAL APPRECIATION OF THE VALUE OF FEELINGS AND EXPERIENCE IN HIS SPIRITUALITY. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS HE MAY HAVE TO DEVELOP AN OPENNESS WITH OTHER PEOPLE (ON A HORIZONTAL PLANE) BEFORE HE CAN ACHIEVE IT WITH GOD (ON A VERTICAL PLANE).

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TRANSITIONAL

Persons with high scores on this scale enjoy being identified with a structure or a movement larger than themselves to which they can devote their energy and talents. With regard to the Church they are attempting to bridge the gap between newer and older functions of the ministry. They continue to devote energy to and derive great satisfaction from time-honored functions such as ministering to the sick and aged. However, they are also finding rewards in some of the newer activities such as marriage counseling and involving themselves in social problems.

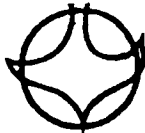
This personal satisfaction in using their energy for a good cause is counterbalanced by tension about changes in the Church and in its liturgy. Their concern may be more pastoral than theological. These changes may also raise personal questions about their own sense of belonging and function within the structure and, therefore, about who they are.

Their need to belong also extends to the more basic social unit, the family. Their place in the family and the quality of family relationships are important to them, and signs of family dysfunction arouse considerable concern.

High scorers are concerned about their personal appearance as well. They wish to reflect in their bearing and dress that they are indeed loyal and acceptable members of Church and family. This concern about appearance may reflect an underlying anxiety that they will not be accepted by either institution unless they conform to pre-established norms of behavior.

A SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE FOR TOM IS TO DEVELOP A CLEARER SENSE OF SELF APART FROM THE EXPECTATIONS OF OTHERS OR THE SOCIAL ROLES WITH WHICH HE IS IDENTIFIED. IN HIS FAVOR IS AN ENERGY FOR AND ADAPTABILITY TO NEW FUNCTIONS WHICH HE HAS ALREADY DEMONSTRATED.

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SERVANTS
of the
PARACLETE

SPIRITUAL PROFILE OF: Rev. Thomas Forry
DIOCESE OF: Archdiocese of Boston, Massachusetts
CONGREGATION:

TEST ADMINISTERED BY: Rev. Salvatore L. Busca, s.P., Spiritual Director
DATE OF TESTING: July 17, 1984

RESULTS:

The following scores were obtained by Thomas in this Profile. On the next pages you will find a resume of his three highest scores. Each resume ends with a spiritual "challenge" upon which he should focus his efforts.

TRADITIONAL.....MODERATE
TRANSITIONAL..... HIGH
INQUIRING..... MODERATELY HIGH
SEARCHING..... HIGH
INCARNATIONAL..... LOW
PERSONAL ARIDITY..... MODERATE
RELATIONAL ARIDITY..... MODERATELY HIGH
MINISTERIAL SATISFACTION..... MODERATELY HIGH

spiritual orientation graph

2, 5, 7

