

On these 2 commandments, . . .

Love -  $\bar{=}$  vague, abstract, lacking in precision  
 $\bar{=}$  isolate

Jesus' commandment new: interlocking of love, self & neighbor

is just that, is a search for an ideal that gives way to personal desire & needs; it's a commandment - a requirement, a must, a binding duty  
But more, a compelling compelling drive interior drive based upon our conviction about the dignity of the other person - a response  
Statement that we are lovable & valuable -

Signs of Love -

Invitation to Love -

Receivers of Love  
givers of Love

Revelation of Love - how enters suffering

665

2:05 - 2:20

OK 934

11:17 - 1:22

Care for the  
alien, widow,  
orphan, the poor

2:05

11:17 - 1:22

#237

Lyke, Tom

St. Leo -

"On the 2 commandment -"

Power  
I

Introduction

II. Spotlight for another reason - to make a list of what you did in preparation

A. You have heard the Gospel - Love

1. Love is m

2. Love is patient after Jesus - Jesus on the cross for you

Sign - LOVABLE

invitation - Loving

REVELATION - SUFFERING

3. Difficult w/out the Spirit

physically .....  
life choice

III. Spotlight because of your potential -

Conclusion

"I have more in common  
with somebody who doesn't believe at all  
than I do to most X'ns." - MULLIN

---

March 1987<sup>7</sup> - interviews, 6 sessions (St+001),  
Retreat, Ceremony of election, prayer,  
Study, Service, leadership in community  
live out sacrament of Confession -

July & August  
found interviews -

hunger - poor  
Vella Can during home  
Waver Hill - mentally retarded

CONFIRMATION, 1986-1987 (basic: pastoral on economy)

MOST OF US CAN'T HELP CHECKING OUT THE SLICK NEW CARS TODAY. THEIR AERODYNAMIC BODY STYLING, WITH THEIR COMPUTERIZED ENGINES AND DEVICES, MAKE THEM APPEAR AS SPACESHIPS WHICH ARE READY TO ROCKET US DOWN THE ROAD. WHEN THESE CARS ARE ADVERTISED, WE ARE GIVEN THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WON'T BE A CITIZEN OF THE MODERN WORLD UNLESS WE PURCHASE THEM. AFTER ALL, WE NEED TO CONVINCING OUR FRIENDS THAT WE ARE REALLY "WITH IT."

THINGS. THINGS. THINGS CAN MAKE US HAPPY, BUT THEY CAN ALSO MAKE US SLAVES: THE CARE OF THINGS AND THE WORRY ABOUT THEM, THE DESIRE FOR MORE OF THEM -- ALL THIS CAN SAP OUR MENTAL ENERGY AND PUSH GOD ON THE SIDELINES OF OUR LIVES.

SAINT PAUL SAYS, "IF WE HAVE FOOD AND CLOTHING, WE HAVE ALL THAT WE NEED." THAT'S AN EXAGGERATION TO MAKE A POINT; BUT, BENEATH THE EXAGGERATION THERE IS A LOT OF TRUTH.

CONSIDER THE MONEY AND TIME WE SPEND FIXING OUR HAIR, DRESSING UP IN THE MOST COOL FASHIONS, SPENDING MORE THAN WE OUGHT ON ALL THE LATEST CLOTHES, ACCESSORIES FOR OUR TAPE-DECK, OR WHATEVER IT IS THAT IS OUR OWN SPECIAL LITTLE KINGDOM IN NEVER-NEVER LAND. AMERICAN TEENS SPENT 45.7 BILLION DOLLARS IN 1983. OF THAT, TEEN AGE GIRLS SPENT 16 BILLION DOLLARS ON CLOTHES ALONE. PERHAPS, BOYS SPENT SO MUCH ON THINGS THAT IT COULD NOT BE MEASURED. NOTICE HOW SOME GIRLS LAYER THEIR FACES WITH OBSESSIVE MAKE-UP IN ORDER TO LOOK GROWN-UP. GUYS ARE GUILTY OF SIMILAR THINGS AS WELL, LIKE CARRYING MUSIC BOXES TWICE THEIR SIZE OR BUYING NUMEROUS ENTERTAINMENT VIDEOS.

YES, EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD WE GROW UP IN TELLS US THAT IF WE BUY THINGS WE WILL BE HAPPY. TELEVISION, MOVIES, MUSIC VIDEOS -- ALL

PAGE 2  
CONFIRMATION 86/87

SHOW BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE SURROUNDED BY BEAUTIFUL THINGS. CHARACTERS LIVE IN FANTASTIC PADS--FURNISHED WITH WONDERFUL THINGS. THEY WEAR PERFECTLY COORDINATED OUTFITS AND DRIVE THE FANCIEST AND FLASHIEST CARS. ON SOAP OPERA SETS EVEN THE TELEPHONES MATCH THE CLOTHING AND DECOR. EVERYTHING IS ALWAYS NEW, ALWAYS THE MOST EXPENSIVE.

THE BEST CLOTHES, THE BEST FOOD, THE BEST HOME, THE BEST TOYS, THE BEST SCHOOLS, THE BEST BOYFRIENDS AND GIRLFRIENDS, THE BEST SEX, THE BEST DRUGS, THE BEST BOOZE, THE BEST CAREER AND FUTURE, THE BEST VACATIONS AND RETIREMENT, THE BEST MARRIAGE IN THE BEST LIFE IN THE BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE WORLDS. THIS IS AMERICA FOR YOU: YOUR BIRTHRIGHT, YOUR GOD-GIVEN RIGHT TO WORK FOR, TO LIVE FOR, TO FIGHT FOR, TO DIE FOR. NOTHING ELSE MATTERS BUT THAT YOU GET WHAT IS YOURS BY RIGHT, WHAT IS COMING TO YOU.

A LIFE SPENT ACCUMULATING MATERIAL THINGS, BUYING BIGGER AND BIGGER, BETTER AND MORE, IS A LIFE WASTED, A LIFE SPENT ON DELUSIONS AND UNREALISTIC AND EXPANDING EXPECTATIONS: CLOTHES DO NOT MAKE THE BOY OR GIRL AND ALL THIS OWNERSHIP OF THINGS ONLY BETRAYS OUR DIGNITY AS HUMAN BEINGS CREATED IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD. WE ARE MORE THAN WHAT WE EAT OR OWN. WE ARE WHO WE ARE IN THE SIGHT OF GOD, NO MORE, NO LESS.

THE GREAT SIN OF MATERIALISM AND CONSPICUOUS CONSUMPTION - BIG WORDS FOR HAVING A LOT OF THINGS - IS SURELY THAT WE DENY TO OTHERS WHAT THEY DEARLY NEED FOR THEIR WELL-BEING AND EVEN THEIR EXISTENCE, AS WE ACCUMULATE AND CONSUME FOR BEYOND OUR OWN NEEDS. WE SIN WHEN OUR WANTS DEPRIVE OTHERS OF THEIR NEEDS. BUT WHAT IS REALLY WASTED IS NOT SIMPLY SCARCE RESOURCES. CHILDREN IN

PAGE 3  
CONFIRMATION 86/87

ETHIOPIA, IN CAMBODIA, IN CENTRAL AMERICA, ARE NOT STARVING SIMPLY AND SOLELY BECAUSE TEENAGERS IN AMERICA BUY TOO MUCH MAKE-UP, HAVE TOO MANY DESIGNER JEANS, OR VCR'S, -- BUT THE REAL WASTE IS THE THROWING AWAY OF OUR TALENTS AND OUR GIFTS IN THE PURSUIT OF JUNK. *[insert]*

BOYS AND GIRLS, WHAT CHRIST AND SAINT PAUL SAY IS SO TRUE: "WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE ALSO YOUR HEART SHALL BE." "TELL THOSE WHO ARE RICH NOT TO RELY ON SO UNCERTAIN A THING AS WEALTH. LET THEM TRUST IN GOD...." [LUKE 12:34] THAT WHICH WINS OUR HEART IS THAT BY WHICH WE ARE RULED, THAT WHICH OWNS US, CONTROLS US, EVEN ENSLAVES US. THE PERSON WHO BUYS BEAUTIFUL THINGS DOES NOT OWN WHAT SHE OR HE POSSESSES--BUT IS OWNED BY WHAT ONE POSSESSES-- HE OR SHE IS OWNED BY THAT CAR, THAT STERO, THAT TOO EXPENSIVE WARDROBE FOR WHICH A PERSON PAYS AND PAYS AND PAYS--WITH THE MISUSE OF ONE'S OWN TALENTS AND RESOURCES. *You, in this world, are the king, does not reign.*

WE CELEBRATE WITH YOU TODAY THIS HOLY SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: THE SACRAMENT CALLED GIFT. AS THE SUCCESSOR OF THE APOSTLES, I WILL LAY MY HANDS UPON YOU AND SAY "RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE SPIRIT!" --BECAUSE THAT IS WHO YOU ARE, OH GREAT GIFT OF GOD! YOU ARE "GIFT" BEYOND ALL PRICE, MOST DEAR, MOST PRECIOUS--<sup>U O O</sup>WORTH FAR MORE THAN ALL THE TREASURES THE WORLD HAS TO OFFER.

YOU ARE WORTH MORE THAN ALL THIS: BIRDS OF THE FIELD, LILIES ON THE HILL. "DO NOT WORRY THEN ABOUT 'WHAT SHALL WE EAT?' OR 'WHAT SHALL WE DRINK?' OR 'WITH WHAT SHALL WE CLOTHE OURSELVES?' FOR ALL THESE THINGS THAT PAGANS EAGERLY SEEK; FOR YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER KNOWS THAT YOU NEED ALL THESE THINGS. BUT SEEK FIRST HIS

KINGDOM AND JUSTICE--AND ALL THINGS NECESSARY SHALL BE GIVEN TO YOU." [MATTHEW 6:31-33]--SO JESUS TELLS US.

MAY YOU LEARN THIS LESSON OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION TODAY. GOD "CONFIRMS" THE GOOD GIFT THAT YOU ARE WITH THE SPECIAL SEAL OF HIS OWN SPIRIT, ~~HIS VERY BREATH, HIS VERY KISS OF LIFE~~ ITSELF; YOU ARE BORN OF THE ESSENCE OF GOD HIMSELF, YOU PROCEED FORTH FROM HIS FONDEST AND DEAREST THOUGHT, YOU POUR FORTH FROM THE HEART OF HIS OWN DEAREST THOUGHT, YOU POUR FORTH FROM THE HEART OF HIS OWN DEAREST HEART-BEAT: OH BLESSED CHILDREN OF GOD!

*skip* *I repeat,* YOUR DIGNITY AND VALUE IN THIS WORLD IS BEYOND PRICE: FOR YOU ARE JOINED TO CHRIST, <sup>the King</sup> AND WITH HIM YOU PROCEED FORTH FROM GOD AS LIGHTS FOR THE WORLD, GIFTS FOR THE WORLD'S REDEMPTION, HEALING, UPBUILDING, RECONCILIATION. YOU COME FORTH FROM GOD--AND YOU ARE SENT BY GOD WITH A MISSION TO THE WORLD.

*are called* YES, MY DEAREST FRIENDS, ~~YOU ARE DIFFERENT:~~ THIS DAY YOU ~~ACHIEVE~~ MATURITY IN GOD'S SIGHT AND IN OURS. ~~FOR YOU KNOW WHERE YOU CAME FROM, AND WHERE YOU ARE GOING.~~ RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT--THE GIFT OF GOD'S LOVE REVEALED IN THE PRECIOUSNESS OF WHO YOU REALLY ARE. PRACTICE THE TRUTH OF WHO YOU REALLY ARE IN ALL THAT YOU STRIVE FOR, IN ALL THAT YOU DO. ~~AND BECOME FOR US ALL THE FULFILLMENT OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER'S PROMISE, TO BRING CHRIST AGAIN--EVER YOUNG, EVER ALIVE, EVER TRUE--TO OUR WORLD!~~

MAY YOU FIND STRENGTH IN THIS SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION AND IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST, WHICH IS OUR FOOD FOR LIFE'S JOURNEY. MAY THESE HOLY SACRAMENTS HELP YOU WORK FOR AND WITNESS TO A DIFFERENT KIND OF WORLD, ~~A WORLD SO BEAUTIFULLY DESCRIBED BY THE POET,~~

PAGE 5  
CONFIRMATION 86/87

LANGSTON HUGHES:

I DREAM A WORLD

BY LANGSTON HUGHES

I DREAM A WORLD WHERE MAN  
NO OTHER (MAN) WILL SCORN  
WHERE LOVE WILL BLESS THE EARTH  
AND PEACE ITS PATH ADORN.  
I DREAM A WORLD WHERE ALL  
WILL KNOW SWEET FREEDOM'S WAY,  
WHERE GREED NO LONGER SAPS THE SOUL  
NOR AVARICE BLIGHTS OUR DAY.  
A WORLD I DREAM WHERE BLACK AND WHITE  
WHATEVER RACE YOU BE,  
WILL SHARE THE BOUNTIES OF THE EARTH  
AND EVERY MAN IS FREE.  
WHERE WRETCHEDNESS WILL HANG ITS HEAD  
AND JOY.....LIKE A PEARL  
ATTEND THE NEEDS OF ALL MANKIND  
OF SUCH.....I DREAM  
OUR WORLD

FROM ARNA BONTEPMP, "AMERICAN NEGRO POETRY", AMERICAN CENTURY  
SERIES. HILL AND WANG COMPANY, N.Y., N.Y., 1963, P.72

CONFIRMATION HOMILY FOR 1986-1987

SCRIPTURE TEXT: I TIMOTHY 6: 6-11; 17-19

BROTHERS AND SISTERS: LITTLE CHILDREN LOVE TO PRETEND. THEY PLAY GAMES AND DRESS UP LIKE GROWN-UPS AND OTHER IMAGINARY AND HEROIC CREATURES. GAMES ARE GOOD FOR CHILDREN, BECAUSE THEY ARE LARGER THAN REAL LIFE, LIKE EVERYTHING IS LARGE TO A CHILD. GAMES GIVE CHILDREN SOMETHING TO SHOOT FOR, SOMETHING TO AIM AT, TO GROW UP TO. IN A GAME OF PRETEND, THE LITTLE HEROES AND HEROINES TRY OUT THEIR SCAREY FEELINGS AND ADVENTUROUS URGES AND EXPLORE THEIR MORE DANGEROUS AGGRESSIONS ON A SAFE STAGE. PLAYTIME IS NOT FOREVER--DINNER TIME ALWAYS INTERRUPTS AND SUDDENLY IT IS TIME FOR PAJAMAS AND BED.

GAMES. SAINT PAUL TELLS US THAT WE MUST LEAVE THEM ASIDE, AND GROW UP SOMETIME: "WHEN I WAS A CHILD, I USED TO TALK LIKE A CHILD, THINK LIKE A CHILD, REASON LIKE A CHILD. WHEN I BECAME A MAN I PUT CHILDISH WAYS ASIDE. NOW WE SEE INDISTINCTLY, AS IN A MIRROR; THEN WE SHALL SEE FACE TO FACE." [I COR. 13: 11-12] BUT SOME OF US NEVER GROW UP, AND WE SPEND OUR LIVES PLAYING GAMES, LIVING IN THE UNREAL WORLD OF ILLUSION AND SELF-DECEPTION.

SAINT PAUL WANTS TO WAKE US UP OUT OF THE DAY-DREAM WORLD OF UNREALITY TO SPIRITUAL ADULTHOOD, REAL LIFE, MATURITY WHEN HE WRITES TO THE YOUNG TIMOTHY:



"WE BROUGHT NOTHING INTO THIS WORLD, AND WE CAN TAKE NOTHING OUT OF IT. IF WE HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT AND A ROOF OVER OUR HEADS, WE SHOULD BE HAPPY."

[I TIM. 6: 7-8] WHAT IS REALLY IMPORTANT TO US AFTER ALL? DO WE WANT TO LIVE REAL LIFE, OR DO WE ALWAYS WANT TO PRETEND, ENDLESSLY PLAY, LIKE WE ARE SOMEONE ELSE IN ANOTHER TIME, IN ANOTHER PLACE?

ARE YOU REALLY SUCH A SPACE-CADET? FOR ISN'T THAT WHAT WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO WHEN WE SPEND ALL OUR TIME FIXING OUR HAIR, DRESSING UP IN THE MOST COOL FASHIONS, SPENDING MORE THAN WE OUGHT ON ALL THE LATEST CLOTHES, ACCESSORIES FOR OUR CAR OR TAPE-DECK OR WHATEVER IT IS THAT IS OUR OWN SPECIAL LITTLE KINGDOM IN NEVER-NEVER LAND. AMERICAN TEENS SPENT \$45.7 BILLION DOLLARS IN 1983. OF THAT, TEEN AGE GIRLS SPENT \$16 BILLION DOLLARS ON CLOTHES ALONE.

EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD WE GROW UP IN TELLS US THAT IF WE BUY THINGS WE WILL BE HAPPY. TELEVISION, MOVIES, MUSIC VIDEOS--ALL SHOW BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE SURROUNDED BY BEAUTIFUL THINGS. CHARACTERS LIVE IN FANTASTIC PADS--FURNISHED WITH WONDERFUL THINGS. THEY WEAR PERFECTLY COORDINATED OUTFITS AND DRIVE THE FANCIEST AND FLASHIEST CARS. ON SOAP OPERA SETS EVEN THE TELEPHONES MATCH THE CLOTHING AND DECOR. EVERYTHING IS ALWAYS NEW, ALWAYS THE MOST EXPENSIVE.

ANYBODY CAN HAVE ALL THIS STUFF. THAT IS THE MESSAGE: ANYBODY CAN HAVE ALL THIS, AND YOU CAN HAVE

ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING YOU WANT. THIS IS YOUR GOD-GIVEN RIGHT, TO HAVE ANYTHING YOU WANT. THIS IS THE MESSAGE WE HAVE DUNNED INTO OUR HEADS FROM THE VERY MOMENT WE CAME FORTH FROM OUR MOTHER'S WOMB. YOU CAN HAVE ANYTHING YOU WANT, LITTLE BOY, LITTLE GIRL. YOU WILL NEVER BE UNHAPPY FOR I WILL SEE TO IT THAT YOU LACK NOTHING. THE BEST CLOTHES, THE BEST FOOD, THE BEST HOME, THE BEST TOYS, THE BEST SCHOOLS, THE BEST BOYFRIENDS AND GIRLFRIENDS, THE BEST SEX, THE BEST DRUGS, THE BEST BOOZE, THE BEST CAREER AND FUTURE, THE BEST VACATIONS AND RETIREMENT, THE BEST MARRIAGE IN THE BEST LIFE IN THE BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE WORLDS. THIS IS JUSTICE FOR YOU: YOUR BIRTHRIGHT, YOUR GOD-GIVEN RIGHT TO WORK FOR, TO LIVE FOR, TO FIGHT FOR, TO DIE FOR. NOTHING ELSE MATTERS BUT THAT YOU GET WHAT IS YOURS BY RIGHT, WHAT IS COMING TO YOU.

THIS IS THE MESSAGE WE HEAR IN OUR WORLD, THE PRETEND WORLD THAT PARENTS US IN DELUSIONS AND DREAMS. WE HEAR THE VOICE AND LISTEN TO THE VOICE THAT THE YOUNG JESUS REJECTS, WHEN HE STOOD ON THE MOUNTAIN PEAK OF HIS OWN YOUTHFUL DREAMS AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS CAREER: "ALL THESE THINGS WILL I GIVE TO YOU, IF ONLY YOU WILL FALL DOWN AND WORSHIP ME!" [MATT. 4:9].

"YOU CANNOT SERVE BOTH GOD AND MAMMON," [LUKE 13:16] JESUS STERNLY WARNS US. MAMMON--OR THE

SPIRIT OF PERSONAL GAIN--IS COMPLETELY INCONSISTENT WITH THE CALL OF THE GOSPEL AND THE FOLLOWING OF CHRIST--WHO CAME "NOT TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE, AND TO GIVE HIS OWN LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR THE MANY," [Mk. 10:45] THE SPIRIT OF GAIN IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE LIVING OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST--BUT ALSO IT IS NOT REAL. IT CANNOT DELIVER, AND IS WHOLLY CONTRARY TO TRUE MATURITY AND ADULTHOOD IN THE WORLD INTO WHICH WE ARE BORN, AND IN WHICH WE ARE CALLED TO GROW, TO MATURE AND TO PROSPER. TRUE HUMAN PROSPERITY IS CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF PERSONAL GAIN.

A LIFE SPENT ACCUMULATING MATERIAL THINGS, BUYING BIGGER AND BIGGER, BETTER AND MORE, IS A LIFE WASTED, A LIFE SPENT ON DELUSIONS AND UNREALISTIC AND EXPANDING EXPECTATIONS: CLOTHES DO NOT MAKE THE MAN OR THE WOMAN, AND CONSPICUOUS CONSUMPTION ONLY BETRAYS OUR DIGNITY AS HUMAN BEINGS CREATED IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD. WE ARE MORE THAN WHAT WE EAT. WE ARE WHO WE ARE IN THE SIGHT OF GOD, NO MORE, NO LESS.

THE GREAT SIN OF MATERIALISM AND CONSPICUOUS CONSUMPTION IS SURELY THAT WE DENY TO OTHERS WHAT THEY DEARLY NEED FOR THEIR WELL-BEING AND EVEN THEIR EXISTENCE, AS WE ACCUMULATE AND CONSUME FAR BEYOND OUR OWN NEEDS. WE SIN WHEN OUR WANTS DEPRIVE OTHERS OF THEIR NEEDS. BUT WHAT IS REALLY WASTED IS NOT SIMPLY SCARCE RESOURCES. CHILDREN IN ETHIOPIA, IN CAMBODIA, IN CENTRAL AMERICA,

Big wants  
for

ARE NOT STARVING SIMPLY AND SOLELY BECAUSE TEEN AGERS IN AMERICA BUY TOO MUCH LIPSTICK, HAVE TOO MANY DESIGNER JEANS, OR VCR'S--BUT THE REAL WASTE IS THE THROWING AWAY OF OUR TALENTS AND OUR GIFTS IN THE PURSUIT OF JUNK.

JUNK IS WHAT WE DON'T NEED, WHAT DOES NOTHING FOR US. "WHY DO YOU WEIGH OUT SILVER FOR WHAT IS NOT BREAD; /AND SPEND YOUR WAGES FOR WHAT DOES NOT SATISFY?" [Is. 55:2] THE PROPHET ISAIAH CRIES. AND JESUS SAYS TO THE GREEDY FARMER WHO IS BUSY PLANNING TO TEAR DOWN HIS BLOATED BARNS TO BUILD STILL BIGGER BARNS: "YOU FOOL! THIS VERY NIGHT GOD WILL REQUIRE FROM YOU YOUR SOUL!" [LUKE 12:20] "BEWARE AND BE ON YOUR GUARD AGAINST EVERY FORM OF GREED; FOR NOT EVEN WHEN ONE HAS AN ABUNDANCE DOES LIFE CONSIST OF POSSESSIONS." [LUKE 12:15] THIS IS JESUS' FINAL JUDGEMENT AND WARNING TO US ALL.

YES, WHAT CHRIST SAYS IS SO TRUE: "WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE ALSO YOUR HEART SHALL BE." [LUKE 12:34]--AND THAT WHICH WINS OUR HEART IS THAT BY WHICH WE ARE RULED, THAT WHICH OWNS US, CONTROLS US, EVEN ENSLAVES US. THE PERSON WHO BUYS BEAUTIFUL THINGS WITH THOSE WONDERFUL LITTLE PLASTIC CARDS--DOES NOT OWN WHAT HE POSSESSES--BUT IS OWNED BY WHAT HE POSSESSES--OR RATHER, BY WHAT HE OWES! HE IS OWNED BY THAT CAR, THAT STEREO, THAT TOO EXPENSIVE HOME OR WARDROBE--FOR WHICH HE PAYS AND PAYS AND PAYS--WITH HIS TALENTS,

HIS LIFE-ENERGIES, HIS VERY SPIRIT, FOR "THAT WHICH IS NOT BREAD, THAT WHICH CANNOT SATISFY."

BUT THE GREATEST TREASON OF ALL IS THAT WHICH IS LOST, THE TALENT THROWN AWAY, THE GIFT SQUANDERED, THE GIFT BURIED.

I KNOW A YOUNG WOMAN NAMED GINNY, A SENIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL--TALENTED, CARING, CONCERNED ABOUT OTHERS --LOOKING EAGERLY TO HER FUTURE. HER UNCLE, A PRIEST FRIEND OF MINE, ASKED HER RECENTLY WHAT SHE WANTED TO DO WHEN SHE GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE LATER ON. "I DON'T KNOW," SHE SAID, "BUT I WOULD LIKE TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE." "WHY NOT BE A TEACHER?" HE SUGGESTED. "OH NO!" SHE QUICKLY REPLIED, "TEACHERS DON'T MAKE ENOUGH MONEY."

ANOTHER AQUAINTANCE OF MINE, WITH A MASTER'S DEGREE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR TEACHING DEAF CHILDREN, WORKS IN A LARGE STATE INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF IN A MIDWESTERN STATE. HIS STARTING SALARY WAS UNDER 12,000 DOLLARS A YEAR--LESS THAN HE WOULD MAKE AS A TRAINEE TO BE A MANAGER IN A McDONALDS OR A BURGER KING OR OTHER FAST FOOD RESTAURANT. STARTING OUT PH.D'S IN PSYCHOLOGY, WORKING AS SCHOOL COUNSELLORS MAKE FAR LESS THAN AUTO MECHANICS OR PLUMBERS. IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO FIND COUNSELLORS FOR ALCOHOLIC AND DRUG TREATMENT CENTERS, DORM SUPERVISORS IN FACILITIES FOR TROUBLED YOUTHS, TEACHERS FOR THE HANDICAPPED, SOCIAL WORKERS AND ADMINISTRATORS FOR SERVICES TO ANY OF THE

MARGINALIZED PEOPLE OF OUR SOCIETY. MOST OF THESE JOBS PAY BARELY LIVING WAGES IF THAT.

NO, GINNY--IF YOU WANT TO GIVE YOUR LIFE TO HELPING OTHERS, YOU BETTER RESIGN YOURSELF TO BE NOT VERY WELL PAID--IF THAT IS YOUR CRITERION FOR SUCCESS: HOW MUCH MONEY YOU ARE GOING TO MAKE. HERE THE JUDGEMENT OF JESUS IS SAD INDEED: "YOU CANNOT SERVE GOD AND MAMMON." AND THE WARNING OF SAINT PAUL TO THE YOUTHFUL TIMOTHY RINGS TRUE: "THOSE WHO WANT TO BE RICH ARE FALLING INTO TEMPTATION AND A TRAP."

I DO NOT WANT TO SAY THAT WE DO NOT NEED PLUMBERS AND HIGH TECH INDUSTRIAL SCIENTISTS AND ENTREPRENEURS. OR THAT AN HONEST ASSISTANT MANAGER IN A WENDY'S OR McDONALD'S IS NOT PERFORMING A USEFUL SERVICE. THERE IS NOTHING INTRINSICALLY EVIL ABOUT THE WORLD OF BUSINESS, COMMERCE AND FINANCE. THERE IS NOTHING WRONG, AND A GREAT DEAL RIGHT--IN THE GENIUS OF BUSINESS, PRODUCTIVITY, THE PROVIDING OF GOODS AND SERVICES, THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND MARKETS, THE PROVIDING OF JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS FOR PEOPLE EVERYWHERE. GOD GAVE US ALL THE GOOD THINGS OF THIS WORLD AND OUR TALENTS AND SKILLS TO BE CREATIVE AND TO PROVIDE FOR OUR NEEDS AND THE NEEDS OF ALL HIS CHILDREN. BUT THE PURSUIT OF PRIVATE GAIN AND THE ACCUMULATION OF UNNECESSARY POSSESSIONS ARE ILLUSIONS, DANGEROUS ILLUSIONS WHICH ROB HUMAN POTENTIAL AND EVENTUALLY DESTROY OUR SPIRIT AS THE CHILDREN, THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

YOU ARE OUR TREASURE--WHICH MONEY CANNOT BUY, AND NO AMOUNT OF MONEY SPENT ON YOU, NO AMOUNT OF MONEY YOU CAN EVER MATERIALIZE YOURSELF IN THE FUTURE--IS WORTHY OF YOU. YOU ARE PURCHASED, ST. PAUL TELLS US, BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, AT AN INESTIMABLE COST. (CF. 1 COR. 6:20). YOU ARE PRICELESS, BEYOND ALL PRICE. YOU CANNOT BE BOUGHT AND IT IS A SIN TO GIVE YOURSELF AWAY FOR ANY EARTHLY PRICE. THERE IS A DIRTY WORD FOR THAT: WE CALL IT "PROSTITUTION"-- TO PUT A PRICE ON THAT WHICH IS PRICELESS, BEYOND ALL COST.

WE CELEBRATE WITH YOU TODAY THIS HOLY SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: THE SACRAMENT CALLED GIFT. AS THE SUCCESSOR OF THE APOSTLES, I WILL LAY MY HANDS UPON YOU AND SAY "RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE SPIRIT!"--BECAUSE THAT IS WHO YOU ARE, OH GREAT GIFT OF GOD! YOU ARE "GIFT" BEYOND ALL PRICE, MOST DEAR, MOST PRECIOUS-- WORTH FAR MORE THAN ALL THE TREASURES OF GOD'S GOOD WORLD!

YOU ARE WORTH MORE THAN ALL THIS: BIRDS OF THE FIELD, LILIES ON THE HILL. "DO NOT WORRY THEN ABOUT 'WHAT SHALL WE EAT?' OR 'WHAT SHALL WE DRINK?' OR 'WITH WHAT SHALL WE CLOTHE OURSELVES?' FOR ALL THESE THINGS THE PAGANS EAGERLY SEEK; FOR YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER KNOWS THAT YOU NEED ALL THESE THINGS. BUT SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND JUSTICE--AND ALL THINGS NECESSARY SHALL BE GIVEN TO YOU." [MATT. 6: 31-33]--SO JESUS LOVINGLY

TELLS YOU TODAY.

MY YOUNG FRIENDS, DEAREST GIFTS OF GOD'S MOST PRECIOUS LOVE: "ALL THINGS BELONG TO YOU, FOR YOU BELONG TO CHRIST AND CHRIST BELONGS TO GOD!" [1 COR. 3: 22-23] THESE WORDS OF SAINT PAUL ARE SO VERY TRUE FOR YOU TODAY.

MAY YOU LEARN THIS LESSON OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION TODAY. GOD "CONFIRMS" THE GOOD GIFT THAT YOU ARE WITH THE SPECIAL SEAL OF HIS OWN SPIRIT, HIS VERY BREATH, HIS VERY KISS OF LIFE ITSELF: YOU ARE BORN OF THE ESSENCE OF GOD HIMSELF, YOU PROCEED FORTH FROM HIS FONDEST AND DEAREST THOUGHT, YOU POUR FORTH FROM THE HEART OF HIS OWN DEAREST HEART-BEAT: OH BLESSED CHILDREN OF GOD!

YOU ARE NO LONGER LITTLE CHILDREN OF GAMES AND PLAY-ACTING, "TOSSED HERE AND THERE BY EVERY WIND OF FOOLISHNESS, EVERY WHIM OF DECEIT AND LIES, (CF. EPHESIANS 4:14), BUT YOU ARE CALLED TO GROW UP IN EVERY RESPECT TO THE VERY FULLNESS OF CHRIST HIMSELF, ADDING TO HIS VITALITY AND HIS STATURE, ALL THE GIFTS OF YOUR BEING WITH GOD SO ABUNDANTLY PROVIDES.

YOUR DIGNITY AND VALUE IN THIS WORLD IS BEYOND PRICE: FOR YOU ARE JOINED TO CHRIST, AND WITH HIM YOU PROCEED FORTH FROM GOD AS LIGHTS FOR THE WORLD, GIFTS FOR THE WORLD'S REDEMPTION, HEALING, UPBUILDING, RECONCILIATION. YOU COME FORTH FROM GOD--AND YOU ARE SENT BY GOD WITH A MISSION TO THE WORLD. THE LITTLE



CHILD HAS TO PRETEND, DESPERATELY SEEKING AFFIRMATION FROM THE ILLUSIONS OF POWER AND FREEDOM THAT POSSESSIONS AND SELFISH AMBITIONS PROMIS BUT NEVER DELIVER-- BECAUSE THE CHILD OF GAMES DOES NOT KNOW WHERE HE CAME FROM, NOR WHERE HE IS GOING.

BUT YOU, MY DEAREST FRIENDS, ARE DIFFERENT: THIS DAY YOU ACHIEVE MATURITY IN GOD'S SIGHT AND IN OURS, FOR YOU KNOW WHERE YOU CAME FROM, AND WHERE YOU ARE GOING. RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT--THE GIFT OF GOD'S LOVE REVEALED IN THE PRECIOUSNESS OF WHO YOU REALLY ARE. PRACTICE THE TRUTH OF WHO YOU REALLY ARE IN ALL THAT YOU STRIVE FOR, IN ALL THAT YOU DO--AND BECOME FOR US ALL THE FULFILLMENT OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER'S PROMISE, TO BRING CHRIST AGAIN-- EVER YOUNG, EVER ALIVE, EVER TRUE--TO OUR WORLD!

CONFIRMATION HOMILY 1986-1987

I know a young woman named Ginny, a senior in high school--talented, caring, concerned about others--looking eagerly to her future. Her uncle, a priest friend of mine, asked her recently what she wanted to do when she graduated from college later on. "I don't know," she said, "but I would like to help other people." "Why not be a teacher?" he suggested. "Oh no!" she quickly replied, "teachers don't make enough money. And, without money, I can't buy all the things I want."

Things. Things. Things can make us happy, but they can also make us slaves: the care of things and the worry about them, the desire for more of them -- all this can sap our mental energy and push God on the sidelines or our lives.

Saint Paul say, "If we have food and clothing, we have all we need." That's an exaggeration to make a point; but, beneath the exaggeration there is a lot of truth.

Consider the money and time we spend fixing our hair, dressing up in the most cool fashions, spending more than we ought on all the latest clothes, accessories for our tape-deck or whatever it is that <sup>MAKES UP</sup> ~~is~~ our own special little kingdom in never-never land. American teens spent \$45.7 BILLION DOLLARS in 1983. Of that, teen age girls spent \$16 BILLION dollars on clothes alone. Perhaps, boys spent so much on things it could not be measured.

Everything in the world we grow up in tells us that if we buy things we will be happy. Television, movies, music videos--all

show beautiful people surrounded by beautiful things. Characters live in fantastic pads--furnished with wonderful things. They wear perfectly coordinated outfits and drive the fanciest and flashiest cars. On soap opera sets even the telephones match the clothing and decor. Everything is always new, Always the most expensive.

The best clothes, the best food, the best home, / the best toys, the best schools, the best boyfriends and girlfriends, / the best sex, the best drugs, the best booze, / the best career and future, the best vacations and retirement, / the best marriage in the best life in the best of all possible worlds. This is America for you: your birthright, your God-given right to work for, to live for, to fight for, to die for. Nothing else matters but that you get what is yours by right, ~~what is coming to you.~~

A life spent accumulating material things, buying bigger and bigger, better and more, is a life wasted, a life spent on delusions and unrealistic and expanding expectations: clothes do NOT make the boy or girl and all this ownership <sup>of</sup> ~~or~~ things only betrays our dignity as human beings created in the image and likeness of God. We are more than what we eat or own. We are who we are in the sight of God, no more, no less.

The great sin of materialism and conspicuous consumption - big words for having a lot of things - is surely that we deny to others what they dearly need for their well-being and even their existence, as we accumulate and consume <sup>far</sup> ~~for~~ beyond our own needs. We sin when our wants deprive others of their needs. But what is really wasted is not simply scarce resources. Children in Ethiopia, in Cambodia, in Central America, are not starving simply and solely because teenagers in America buy too much lipstick, have

too many designer jeans, or VCR's, ~~but~~ The real waste is the throwing away of our talents and our gifts in the pursuit of junk.

Boys and girls, what Christ and Saint Paul say is so true: "Where your treasure is, there also your heart shall be." "Tell those who are rich not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth. Let them trust in God...." [~~Luke 12:34~~] That which wins our heart is that by which we are ruled, that which owns us, controls us, even enslaves us. The person who buys beautiful things does not own what she or he possesses--but is owned by what one possesses--he or she is owned by that car, that stereo, that too expensive wardrobe for which a person pays and pays and pays--with the misuse of one's own talents and resources.

We celebrate with you today this Holy Sacrament of Confirmation: the Sacrament called GIFT. As the successor of the Apostles, I will lay my hands upon you and say "Receive the GIFT of the <sup>Holy</sup> SPIRIT!" --because that is who you are, oh great GIFT OF GOD! You are "gift" beyond all price, most dear, most precious--worth far more than all the treasures the world has to offer.

*Nothing you own  
can ever be greater  
than who you are.*

You are worth more than all this: birds of the field, lilies on the hill. "Do not worry then about 'what shall we eat?' or 'what shall we drink?' or 'with what shall we clothe ourselves?' For all these things that pagans eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and justice--and all things necessary shall be given to you." [Matthew 6:31-33]--so Jesus tells us.

May you learn this lesson of the Sacrament of Confirmation today. God "confirms" the good gift that you are with the special

seal of His own Spirit, His very breath, His very kiss of life  
itself; you are born of the essence of God Himself, you proceed  
forth from His fondest and dearest thought, you pour forth from the  
heart of His own dearest thought, you pour forth from the heart of  
His own dearest heart-beat: oh blessed children of God!

Your dignity and value in this world is beyond price: for  
you are joined to Christ, and with Him you proceed forth from God  
as lights for the world, gifts for the world's redemption, healing,  
upbuilding, reconciliation. You come forth from God--and you are  
sent by God with a mission to the world.

Yes, my dearest friends, you are different: this day you  
achieve maturity in God's sight and in ours, for you know where  
you came from, and where you are going. Receive the gift of the  
Holy Spirit--the gift of God's love revealed in the preciousness of  
who you really are. Practice the TRUTH of who you really are in  
all that you strive for, in all that you do--and become for us all  
the fulfillment of our Heavenly Father's promise, to bring Christ  
again--ever young, ever alive, ever true--to our world!

May you find strength in this Sacrament of Confirmation and  
in the Holy Eucharist, which is our food for life's journey. May  
these Holy Sacraments help you work for and witness to a different  
kind of world, a world so beautifully described by the poet,  
Langston Hughes:

I DREAM A WORLD

by Langston Hughes

I dream a world where man  
No other (man) will scorn  
Where love will bless the earth

And peace its path adorn.  
I dream a world where all  
Will know sweet freedom's way,  
Where greed no longer saps the soul  
Nor avarice blights our day.  
A world I dream where black and white  
Whatever race you be,  
Will share the bounties of the earth  
And every man is free.  
Where wretchedness will hang its head  
And joy....like a pearl  
Attend the needs of all mankind  
of such....I dream

OUR WORLD

From Arna Bontemps, "American Negro Poetry", American Century Series. Hill and Wang Company, N.Y., N.Y., 1963, p.72

May 4, 1986  
Confirmation  
Saint Paul, Croatian

One cold wintry night a ragged man came to a little music shop in London, England. Under his arm he had an old violin. "I am starving," he said to the shopkeeper. "I was wondering if you could buy this old violin so that I can buy some food?"

The shopkeeper took the old violin out of its case to see whether it was even worth offering to his customers. He drew the bow across the strings and was amazed at the full rich sound. Then he lit a candle and peered deep down inside the violin. There he discovered engraved the maker's name - Antonius Stradivarius-- and the date, 1704. Suddenly he knew that he held in his hand a very rare and valuable instrument -- an instrument that had been missing for over 100 years -- worth probably \$100,000 in today's money. What made this violin so valuable? It was valuable because the loving and devoted hands of the world's greatest violin maker had made it.

You know what makes you so valuable? It is because a loving and devoted God made you. The prophet Jeremiah says that even before he was born, God knew him and was watching over him. That is true of each of us as well.

You and I are very important people - not because we are so smart or so beautiful or handsome or have so much money. We are important simply and solely because we were created by the loving hand of God.

I.

Little Flower  
June 1, 1986  
Corpus Christi  
Confirmation

Spouse  
Friends  
Co-workers  
Family

Introduction

"But who wants him back"  
To be perfect

I. Jesus wants his Church to be the perfect community of disciples. Eucharist - Unity, Presence, Community, Food

1st 300  
years -  
in a home,  
at a table

"Become what you receive"  
"At the Eucharist, the Christian becomes one with Christ,  
for his Body is One, and his Blood flows through all."  
"This is truly the flesh and blood of Christ, and the nourishment of the  
Church and the Christian."

II. Point: we cannot talk about the Holy Eucharist without talking about the people who receive the Eucharist - the Church.

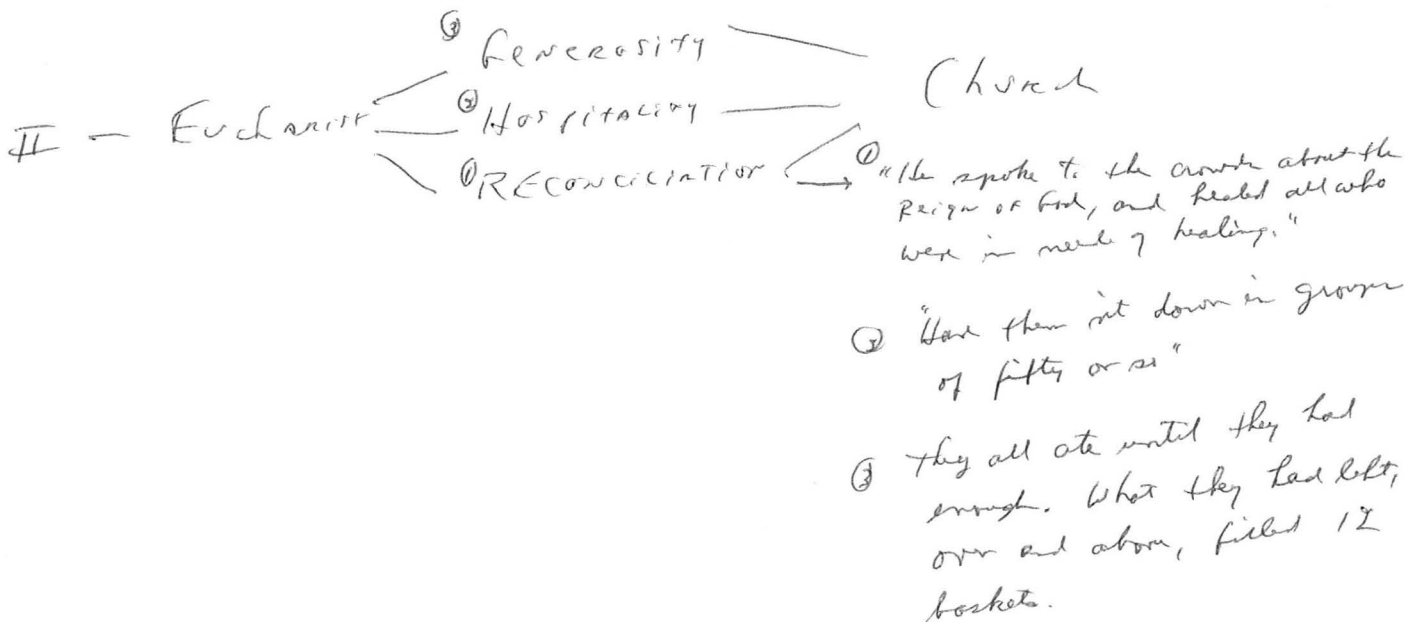
1. WE CANNOT TALK ABOUT THE INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST, WITHOUT TALKING ABOUT WHY CHRIST INSTITUTED THE EUCHARIST.

@. WE CANNOT SAY, THIS IS MY BODY OVER THE BREAD, WITHOUT TALKING ABOUT THE MYSTICAL BODY THE CHURCH

M WE CANNOT SAY, THIS IS MY BLOOD, OVER THE WINE, WITHOUT TALKING ABOUT THE MYSTICAL BODY THROUGH WHICH THE BLOOD FLOWS.

WE CANNOT SAY, DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME, WITHOUT TALKING ABOUT THE PEOPLE, THE CHURCH, WHO DO THE REMEMBERING.

WE CANNOT RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION, WITHOUT RECEIVING EACH OTHER.





9

III  
Role of Holy Spirit in the Eucharist — come as a  
Church.

" Let your Spirit come upon these gifts to make them holy  
so that they may become for us the Body & Blood

of Eucharist Prayers

IV Faith — Mother Teresa

Holy Ghost  
 Oje Lousar, LA  
 Jan. 8, 1987  
 Companion

INTRO

- PERFECTION } WE LOOK FOR MODELS OF PERFECTION:
- ST. MARK'S } FORM CONSCIENCE
- Determine ~~actions~~ <sup>JUDGEMENTS</sup>
- INSPIRE ACTIONS

Capitol	Slave	<del>Slave</del>	
All My Children	Erica	Lucretia Mott	— ABOLITIONIST
Another World	Petera	George Washington Carver	— SCIENTIST
As the World Turns	Lucinda CRAIG	Beatrice Taylor	— CIVIL RTS LEADER
Days on Our Lives	Roman	Countee Cullen	— WRITER & POET
Gen. Hosp.	Teo	John Oliver Killens	— NOVELIST
Grocery Store	Reva	M. L. King	— MARTYR FOR JUSTICE
Loving	Tony	Dr. Daniel Hale Williams	— 1 <sup>st</sup> <sup>SUCCESSFUL</sup> HEART SURGEON
One Life to Live	Tina	SARA FABRO	— EDUCATOR
Ryan Hope	ERIC	Benjamin Banneker	— CITY PLANNER
Santa Barbara	Courtney	Paul Robeson	— ACTOR / <del>Human</del> <sup>Human</sup> Rights
Young & Rubicam	Paul Jack, Jill	Dolly Adams	Y <del>PI</del> MUSICIAN
		Easha Kitt	

Pr. Judgment  
COURAGE

A. If <sup>like</sup> your heart and mind is like the  
footpath, or <sup>like</sup> rocky ground, or like briar and  
thorn, that shut out the word of God,  
lessen its impact or change its meaning,  
the Holy Spirit can change that, giving  
you

WISDOM

Knowledge

Understanding  
COUNSEL  
Knowledge  
Strength  
~~Power~~

fear of the Lord,

~~opening you to the life~~

opening

opening you up to the "glad tidings of  
salvation" and the "word of truth."

A Spirit is your source of

Put all these together  
& you have the  
ideal person,  
here  
exemplar

hope

kindness

Purity  
~~Character~~

joy

generosity

justice

endurance

Faith

peace

humility

meekness

patience

Forgiveness

LOVE

Put all these together  
& you have XST...

C. Put all these together & you have  
the Kingdom of God on earth, that Kingdom  
so beautifully described by the poet Langston Hughes:

II. What does all this have to do with the Sacrament of Confirmation?

A. Young people, <sup>you</sup> want to find a sense of what it means to measure up to someone or something, to some person or to some ideal.

B. Young people, <sup>you</sup> want to be informed with the right knowledge and formed by the right values, so that you can be transformed into the right person.

C. Your most urgent question, young people, are:

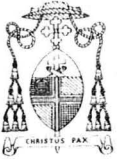
1. Who is my hero?
2. What are my guiding values?
3. What kind of person do I want to be, and why?

III. Confirmation in the Sacrament of Transformation:

Just as ~~the Holy~~ Bread & wine are changed into the Body & Blood of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, so, by the same Holy Spirit you are changed into <sup>a living</sup> Christ Jesus and become an ambassador for His Kingdom.

LIVING  
CHRIST

I dream a world where man  
no other will scorn  
where love will bless the earth  
and peace its paths adorn  
I dream a world  
where all will know  
sweet freedom's way  
where greed no longer  
rapes the soul  
nor covetous flights on day  
A world I dream  
where black & white  
whatever you be  
will share the brotherhood of the earth  
and everyone in peace  
where wretchedness will hang its head  
and joy, like a pearl,  
attend the needs of all mankind  
of soul & ~~see~~ dream,  
our world




OFFICE OF THE EPISCOPAL VICAR

URBAN REGION

June 5, 1987

To: Bishop Pilla  
Bishop Sheldon  
Bishop Pevec  
Bishop Quinn

From: Bishop Lyke 

Re: Confirmation Homily with Vocation Thrust

Father Tom Dragga and I discussed the possibility of the bishops preaching about vocations during the 1987-1988 Confirmation season.

I asked Father Andre McGrath whether he would draw up the DRAFT of such a homily. Father Andre willingly accepted the invitation. Thus, the enclosed - which, he says, is given to the bishops as an appreciation for his wonderful stay in Cleveland and as a farewell gift from him to us.

If the bishops are agreeable to such an approach, Father Dragga is willing to gather a group of the priests working with Bishop Pilla on vocations. These priests would study, re-work or fine-tune the draft based upon our recommendations and their own examination.

If this is agreeable to you, I will contact Father Dragga. Perhaps we can discuss this briefly at our next staff meeting (or after the staff meeting).

Thanks!

cc: Father Tom Dragga

enclosure: draft of Confirmation homily

note: selected scriptural reading - I Corinthians 12: 4-13

## CONFIRMATION HOMILY 1987/1988

HOW PROUD I AM OF YOU TODAY--BROTHERS AND SISTERS. IT IS AMAZING TO SEE YOU, YOUNG ADULT CHRISTIANS, BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF CHRIST, EAGER TO RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHICH WE CALL CONFIRMATION.

YOU RECEIVE A GIFT BECAUSE YOU ALREADY ARE OUR VERY BEST GIFT, AND TODAY GOD CONFIRMS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT THE GIFT YOU ALREADY ARE AND HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TO US ALL. YOUR PARENTS AND TEAGHERS STAND WITH YOU--AMAZED NO DOUBT THAT SO VERY SUDDENLY YOU LOOK SO GROWN UP, SO MATURE AND ADULT. WHERE DID MY LITTLE BOY AND LITTLE GIRL GO, THEY WONDER. BROTHERS AND SISTERS, AUNTS AND UNCLES--AND OF COURSE GRANDPARENTS AND EVEN GREAT-GRANDPARENTS--ARE ALL HERE WITH YOU, CHILDREN OF THEIR LOVE, THEIR HOPES AND DREAMS, THEIR JOYS AND SOMETIMES PAIN AND SUFFERING TOO. AND MAYBE FOR SOME OF YOU, A MOM OR DAD OR GRANDPARENT, BROTHER OR SISTER LOOKS DOWN FROM HEAVE WITH SPECIAL JOY UPON YOU TODAY.

YOU ARE THE BEST WE GOT, THE BEST WE COULD EVER HOPE FOR, THE BEST WE CAN GIVE TO GOD, AND THE BEST GOD HAS EVER GIVEN TO US.: FOR YOU ARE THE GIFT FROM OUR OF OUR PAST, THE GIFT OF TODAY, AND THE PROMISE OF GIFTS STILL YET TO COME: YOU ARE THE FUTURE: OUR CHILDREN FROM YESTERDAY, OUR YOUTH OF TODAY, OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF TOMORROW: OUR HUSBANDS AND WIVES, MOTHERS AND FATHERS

OF A GENERATION YET TO BE BORN, FRIENDS AND HEALERS AND TEACHERS, BUILDERS OF TOMORROW: YES, YOU ARE OUR COMMITTED CHRISTIAN PEOPLE, FOR YOU ARE THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW: GREAT GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO FASHIONS A CHURCH OUT OF EVERY GENERATION. TODAY IN THIS HOLY SACRAMENT, YOU AND I, YOUNG PEOPLE--BUILD THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW, SANCTIFIED AND FORTIFIED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE SACRAMENTS, NOURISHED BY THE BODY AND BLOOD OF THE LORD, STRONG IN FAITH AND HOPE AND LOVE. YOU ARE THE BUILDERS THEN OF THE FAMILIES AND SOCIETY YET TO COME. YOU WILL BE OUR CONSECRATED RELIGIOUS MEN AND WOMEN, OUR DEACONS AND PRIESTS, YES EVEN OUR BISHOPS AND POPES.

SOMEWHERE AT THIS VERY HOUR SOMEONE YOUR VERY OWN AGE, SOMEONE JUST LIKE YOU WITH A MOM AND DAD, LITTLE BROTHER AND BIG SISTER, WITH JOBS AND GAMES AND HOMEWORK, FRIENDS TO PAL AROUND WITH, KIDS TO FIGHT AND ARGUE WITH, PARENTS TO GIVE HEADACHES TO, WITH ALL THE LITTLE STRUGGLES AND VICTORIES, THE GOOF UPS AND MISTAKES, THE CONFUSION THE JOY AND DELIGHT OF BEING YOUNG--ALTOGETHER JUST LIKE YOU--THERE IS A SPECIAL SOMEONE. JUST LIKE YOU FIGHTING ACNE AND PIMPLES, ARGUING AND FIGHTING AND TEASING, WORRYING ABOUT TESTS AND COLLEGE OR POPULARITY, TRYING OUT FOR THE TEAM, WORRYING ABOUT A GIRLFRIEND, TRYING TO KEEP OUT OF TROUBLE--SOMEWHERE THERE IS A KID LIKE YOU WHO GOD WANTS TO BE A NUN, A RELIGIOUS BROTHER, A PRIEST, SOMEDAY A BISHOP OR POPE. YES, SOMEWHERE--SITTING OUT



THERE IS TOMORROWS CONSECRATED MAN OR WOMAN, CALLED BY GOD. SOMEWHERE THERE IS A SISTER AND A BROTHER IN A RELIGIOUS ORDER. YES--I AM LOOKING AT YOU--AM I LOOKING AT A PRIEST OR DEACON OR BISHOP--LOOKING BACK AT ME THROUGH THIRTEEN YEAR OLD EYES?

YOU ARE THE SPECIAL GIFT OF GOD, WHATEVER GOD CALLS YOU TO BE. WE WHO ARE OLDER ASRE MUCH ASTONISHED AT THIS GIFT, BECAUSE WE SAW YOU WHEN YOU WERE VERY LITTLE, WE HELD YOU IN OUR HANDS--WHEN YOU WERE SO VERY SMALL AND ALL YOU WERE WAS A CRY AND A NEED FOR FOOD AND DRINK, CLOTHES AND SHELTER, AND LOVE. WE TOOK YOU HOME WITH US AND DID OUR BEST--MAKING MISTAKES TO BE SURE, BECAUSE WE ARE HUMAN AND ARE WEAK AND IMPERFECT, NOT BECAUSE WE DID NOT LOVE YOU. LOVE YOU WE DID, AND DO AND ALWAYS WILL--FOR GOD HAS GIVEN YOU TO US, THAT WE MIGHT LEARN TO LOVE YOU AS HE HAS FIRST LOVED US--AND SO YOU HAVE BEEN OUR PRECIOUS SCHOOL OF GOD'S OWN LOVE.

BUT TODAY WE SEE THE FUTURE--WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO BE ON ACCOUNT OF THE GREAT GIFTS OF GOD THAT YOU HAVE AND THAT YOU ARE. "TO EACH PERSON THE MANIFESTATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GIVEN FOR THE COMMON GOOD!" ST. PAUL TELLS US IN OUR SECOND READING (1 COR 12:7) --HE IS SPEAKING ABOUT YOU--WE SEE THAT TODAY.

YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN A LOT, BROTHERS AND SISTERS--EVER SINCE YOU WERE BORN INTO THIS WORLD.

WHAT OTHER COUNTRY OR SOCIETY HAS GIVEN MORE TO ITS YOUNG PEOPLE? PERHAPS SOME OF US HAVE NOT DEALT WITH YOU WISELY. SOME SO-CALLED GIFTS MAY HAVE EXPLOITED YOUR YOUTH AND VULNERABILITY--AND LEFT YOU MORE CONFUSED THAN ENLIGHTENED, MORE HURT THAN BLESSED. I CAN ONLY APOLOGIZE FOR MY GENERATION WHERE WE HAVE BEEN TOO SELF-INDULGENT AND UNCARING TOWARDS YOUR GENERATION. WHERE HARM HAS BEEN DONE YOU, I CAN ONLY CONFESS OUR COMMON GUILT AND BEG YOUR FORGIVENESS. THE GREATEST TRAGEDY WOULD BE IF YOU RETURN INJURY WITH BITTERNESS AND HARDNESS OF HEART. I CAN ONLY OFFER A HAND OF RECONCILIATION AND AMENDS. FORGIVE US WHERE WE HAVE HURT YOU.

BUT MUCH OF WHAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED FROM THIS WORLD HAS BEEN GOOD--AND ALL THAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU COMES FROM HEARTS IN LOVE WITH YOU. WE GAVE YOU THE BEST WE HAVE AND OUR HOPES AND DREAMS FOR YOU ARE ONLY FOR THE BEST.

MUCH HAS BEEN GIVEN YOU AND THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR FUTURE ARE RICH AND LOVELY. BUT NO MORE THAN IS TRUE FOR US ALL, OF THE OLDER GENERATION, IS IT TRUE FOR YOU AS WELL: NO GIFT IS GIVEN TO ENRICH AND INFLATE THE ONE WHO RECEIVES IT. GIFTS ARE GIVEN TO TRANSFORM AND CHANGE THE ONE WHO RECEIVES--TURNING AN EMPTY AND THIRSTY VESSEL INTO AN OVERFLOWING FOUNTAIN OF MERCY! SPEAKING OF THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, JESUS CRIED OUT:

IF ANYONE THIRSTS, LET HIM COME TO ME;  
LET HIM DRINK WHO BELIEVES IN ME. SCRIPTURE  
HAS IT: "FROM WITHIN HIM RIVERS OF LIVING  
WATER SHALL FLOW." [JOHN 7:37-38]

YOU BECOME WHAT YOU RECEIVE: A GIFT AND THE  
GIVER OF GIFTS! "IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO  
RECEIVE" JESUS TELLS ST. PAUL (CF. ACTS 20:35). MUCH  
HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US, AND THE LORD CALLS US TO GIVE  
IN LIKE MEASURE:

MUCH WILL BE REQUIRED OF THE PERSON ENTRUSTED  
WITH MUCH, AND STILL MORE WILL BE DEMANDED OF  
THE PERSON ENTRUSTED WITH MORE. [LUKE 12:48]

THE SPIRIT THAT YOU RECEIVE TODAY, BROTHERS  
AND SISTERS, IS A STRONG AND POWERFUL WIND OF CHANGE,  
A GIVING SPIRIT, THE AUTHOR OF LIFE ITSELF, POURED OUT  
AND GIVEN LIKE A MIGHTY RIVER, A FLOOD OF AWESOME POWER:  
THE VERY POWER, THE FINGER OF GOD, WHICH TOUCHED AND  
OVERPOWERED EVERY FORCE OF DARKNESS, ILLNESS AND DESPAIR  
SINCE TIME BEGAN. THIS IS THE POWER WHICH LED THE  
HEBREW CHILDREN DRY-SHOD OUT OF BONDAGE INTO THE FREEDOM  
OF THE PROMISED LAND, WHICH CARVED THE LAW ON TABLETS OF  
STONE AND THEN ON HEARTS. THIS SPIRIT OVERCOMES THE  
RELUCTANCE OF SLOW BELIEVERS AND FRAGILE FAITH, AND BUILDS  
BONFIRES OF COURAGE FROM FRIGHTENED TIMBER.

THE SPIRIT YOU RECEIVE IS A GIVING SPIRIT, LOVING,  
AND A DEMANDING SPIRIT--WHO WANTS THE BEST FOR YOU AND

THE VERY BEST OUT OF YOU. THE SPIRIT WHO GIVES  
ALL OF GOD AND ALL OF US TO YOU -- WANTS ALL OF YOU  
FOR GOD!

"IF TODAY YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, HARDEN NOT  
YOUR HEARTS!" [CF, Ps. 95:7-8] DO NOT REFUSE HIM WHO  
IS SPEAKING TO YOU, CALLING YOU TO GIVE EVERYTHING TO  
GOD. GOD WANTS PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS MEN AND WOMEN,  
DEACONS AND GOSPEL MINISTERS FOR HIS PEOPLE: YOU ARE GIVEN  
GIFTS, GIFTS THAT COME FROM GOD: SPEAK NOW IN YOUR  
HEARTS WITH THE WORDS OF THE BOY SAMUEL IN THE DARK  
OF THE TEMPLE IN AGES PAST: "SPEAK LORD, YOUR SERVANT  
IS LISTENING!" [CF. I SAM. 3:10]

THAT IS WHAT I ASK OF YOU TODAY, BROTHERS  
AND SISTERS--THAT YOU LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF THE HOLY  
SPIRIT WHO IS CALLING YOU. IN THIS WORLD YOU WILL HEAR  
MANY OTHER VOICES AS WELL: CALLING YOU TO BECOME RICH  
AND IMPORTANT, YES EVEN KIND AND GOOD AND GENEROUS,  
TO THE END THAT YOU SHOULD MAKE A MARK IN THIS WORLD  
AND LEAVE SOMETHING OF YOURSELF BEHIND. SOME WILL TELL  
YOU ALSO THAT LIFE COMES AROUND ONLY ONCE, SO GRAB FOR  
ALL THAT YOU CAN GET--POWER, INFLUENCE, MONEY. THESE  
ARE THE SIGNS THAT YOU MATTER, THAT YOU ARE IMPORTANT  
AND MADE A DIFFERENCE.

BUT THE SPIRIT THAT YOU RECEIVE TODAY CALLS  
AS WELL. LEAVE SOMETHING OF CHRIST BEHIND, EVEN IF ONLY  
A DROP OF HIS BLOOD, OR A TEAR FROM HIS EYE, A TOUCH, A  
GLANCE, A CUP OF COLD WATER GIVEN IN HIS NAME. LEAVE NOT

YOURSELF, LEAVE CHRIST BEHIND, SO THAT PEOPLE WILL KNOW THAT HE MATTERS, THAT HE MADE A DIFFERENCE AND MAKES A DIFFERENCE STILL. THE SPIRIT THAT YOU RECEIVE TODAY CALLS YOU TO TAKE UP CHRIST AND TO LIVE HIM. IT PROMISES NOTHING OTHER THAN THAT YOU HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, THE INEXHAUSTIBLE SUPPLY OF GOD'S LOVE. THE ONLY THING MORE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT PROMISES IS HARDSHIP, SUFFERING AND PERSECUTION, WHICH SOUNDS LIKE NO BARGAIN, AND SOME WOULD SAY ONLY A FOOL SHOULD ANSWER THIS CALL. THE SPIRIT ASKS FOR EVERYTHING AND ONLY PROMISES A SHARE IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST--TO LOSE EVERYTHING FOR HIS SAKE.

"COME FOLLOW ME" JESUS SAYS TO ST. PETER. WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG YOU USED TO TIE UP YOUR GARMENTS AND GO ABOUT THE WAY YOU PLEASED. BUT NOW THAT YOU ARE OLD, SOMEONE ELSE WILL TIE UP YOUR WAIST AND TAKE YOU WHERE YOU NEVER WANTED TO GO. [CF. JOHN 21:18] IN THAT WAY--JESUS TOLD PETER--AND TELLS ANY OF US WHO LISTEN IN OUR HEARTS FOR THE CALL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT-- THIS IS THE WAY THAT WE SHALL PLEASE GOD. SETTING SELF ASIDE, SERVING OTHERS AND GOD.

TO SERVE GOD IS NOT AN EASY LIFE--TO FOLLOW CHRIST IS TO SHARE IN HIS REDEEMING LOVE WHICH COST HIM HIS LIFE UPON THE CROSS. BUT TO WALK WITH HIM, TO BLESS IN HIS NAME, TO DRAW ALL INTO DEEPER FRIENDSHIP WITH HIM AND WITH ONE ANOTHER, TO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR

CONFIRMATION 87/88 P8

JUSTICE AND PEACE, TO BEAR THE BURDEN OF GOD'S  
CHILDREN AND TO FIND HIS FACE IN HIDDEN PLACES--  
IS TO WALK IN THE FULLNESS OF GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT FOR  
THE LIFE OF THE WORLD, AND TO POSSESS CHRIST FOREVER.



OFFICE OF THE EPISCOPAL VICAR

U-925/1987  
URBAN REGION

December 7, 1987

To: Bishop Pilla  
Bishop Sheldon  
Bishop Pevec  
Bishop Quinn

From: Bishop Lyke 

Re: Confirmation Homily

I am pleased to enclose for you comments made on Father Andre McGrath's Confirmation homily draft.

These notations come from Bishop Pilla's Vocation Committee.

# SAINT JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH



Administration Center  
Parish Church Center  
7575 Bellflower Road  
Mentor, Ohio 44060  
Phone: 255-0600

November 11, 1987

To: Bishop James Lyke

From: Father Kevin C. Shemuga

Re: Confirmation Homily with Vocation Thrust

Enclosed are some reflections from the Vocation Committee on the proposed homily presented to us at a recent meeting with Bishop Pilla.

I am sorry these reflections are so late in arrival.

Reflections from Kevin Shemuga:

I am pleased with the scriptural texts that were chosen by Fr. McGrath. His theme is that the candidate for Confirmation is GIFT. Overall it is a good homily. It seems to get "wordy", though.

I would like to see the sacraments of baptism and confirmation developed more in the homily. These sacraments call us to ministry in the Church. The gift of the Spirit given at Confirmation enables us to discover our specific call to ministry.

The description of the Spirit effects on page 5 is excellent.

If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to call on me.

*Kevin*



# SAINT JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH



Administration Center  
Parish Church Center  
7575 Bellflower Road  
Mentor, Ohio 44060  
Phone: 255-0600

July 20, 1987

To: Bob Kloos  
Larry Martello  
Pat O'Connor  
Marty Polito  
Steve Spisak

From: Kevin Shemuga

Re: Bishops' Confirmation Homily with Vocation Thrust

On June 12 when the Vocation Committee met at Borromeo you received a proposed homily to be given at Confirmation. You were asked to read the homily, study it, re-work and fine-tune it.

When you have completed this, please send me your recommendations. I would appreciate your response by Saturday, August 7. I will present these recommendations to Bishop Pilla at our next meeting.

Thank you! *KCS.*

Reflections on the McGrath Confirmation Homily for Vocations  
Bob Kloos  
August 12

First off, I don't like the use of canned thoughts. I presume each of the bishops will personalize and adapt extensively. I will comment on the copy, the thoughts presented on vocations, and add some personal recommendations.

The First Corinthians reading is excellent. It should be utilized more in the homily. I believe it should be stressed that each of the gifts, while unique and wonderful, are given for the purpose of the Church, and only have validity when used for the whole body. A brief discussion of "the common good" would be helpful. Even in a secular sense, if we lose a concern for the welfare of all, we attack the very fiber of our being, the fabric of our nation. We cannot survive a wholesale drive for individualism. Too much of our present day media lifts that up as the ideal.

Paul lists the gifts of the Spirit, all of which are essential if we are to meet the challenge ahead of us. Perhaps the bishops could translate these gifts into more familiar language: wisdom of discourse/tell it like it is; knowledge/know what you are doing; faith/trust; healing/make time for others; miraculous powers/talented; prophecy/say what needs to be said; discernment/sort things out; tongues/he can talk to anybody; interpretation/he listens well.

By now, each of the confirmandi should have some sense of his/her own gift. Perhaps it has been pointed out specifically by a parent or a teacher. Perhaps friends have constantly relied on you for just such a gift. Perhaps it is known to you and you wonder what is in store for you because of it. During the preparation for Confirmation, you have been challenged to find your place in a Church which appears very adult, demanding, narrow-minded, and impersonal. Here you sit, convinced of your own self-worth, certain of a number of your gifts, willing to offer what you can, yet wondering where your place is. You have a lot of company. Not only are the other young adults seated with you sharing your thoughts, your parents and grandparents are searching for a place in the Church. It seems we are all always working for a clearer understanding of our relationship with each other. According to I Cor 12, the Spirit has provided for the Body--it is up to us to sort out how. You are here today to mark the time in your lives when you join the search in earnest.

It would be good if the bishop could be prepared to demonstrate how some of the activities the confirmandi have performed in the preparation program have been demonstrations of the gifts. No matter how small the effort, the human investment, the time set aside, the apparent effectiveness, the gift offered by the young adult must be affirmed. "No big thing!" was a statement I heard a lot when I was growing up. I still hear it today. This world revolves around "no big things," especially if they are offered in love, no strings attached. The young people know how much they appreciate those moments directed toward them. They have to be reminded how important they are when directed toward others. That's life. That's the Spirit.

In terms of vocations, I don't think you can talk theoretically. Point to people who have affected your life, vocation, life-style, interests. Point out folks who have caused you to change course in midstream. Whom do you listen to. It is important that young people see that adults have modeled (and still model) their lives after those who have inspired them. (Inspired is a word that comes from the same root from which we derive "Spirit"--I think!) There are some well known folks--Mother Theresa, Jean Vanier, and others who are worthy examples, but it would be important for the bishops to single out (not necessarily by name) those who have helped them identify gifts and do their jobs. It would be especially interesting if the bishops are moved by people younger than themselves. By doing this, they show that their job is "inspired" and one of service for the whole body. They feel "called" or compelled to do what they do because of the needs of the whole body. And while everyone may not be called to be a religious or priest, each of us is called to listen, to pay attention to those who inspire us, and to be open to doing what it seems others are calling us to.

I would like to see "Vocation" spoken of in terms of a call from and for community, family, school, church, world. I would like to see it as a call often articulated by real people. I would like to see it as a legitimate claim on our time and attention so that we don't overlook what might be for us a lifetime of happiness, a continual calling to be just what others need us for.

The Draft:

Page one--

Opening comments: "Are you as eager as you look to take on the challenge the Church offers?"

Instead of "little boy", focus on support from family, presence of family.

Page two--

friends, teachers, builders, . . . .keep the list going!

Today, in this holy sacrament, you and I. . .build the world of tomorrow . . . not just the Church!

Before you tell them they will be the consecrated religious of tomorrow, remind them they are consecrated by their baptism to bring Good News to a world. That will happen in many ways. One way is through a religious vocation.

I do not care for the approach of the bottom paragraph. "Yes somewhere. . . ." sounds a little far-fetched.

Page three--

"We who are older. . .we sat where you sit!"

Page four--

Apology should include the admission that it is adults who make the porn movies, import the drugs and make the distribution of them possible. We have good reason to seek the pardon of the youth. We have also failed to challenge them with many of the responsibilities that were ours, character-building experiences that help us still today.

Page five--

The imagery on the Spirit seems too disconnected. Focus instead on the opportunity they have to be living water, and Exodus for their friends. There is much slavery today and they and their friends are victims. They know how free they want to be; they also know how much they have compromised in the past. If they truly allow themselves to be motivated by the Spirit, they will reach out to their friends and move them to safety, a promised Land.

Page six--

Before we can expect them to speak in response to God's call, they must first be more comfortable with dialogue within the Church. If it is the Church that often articulates the call to religious life, let the young people speak to and with the Church. Tell them to settle for no less than their fair share of time and representation in the local Church. The Church needs to hear from them.

Rather than focus on what is left behind when you enter religious life, realistically point out that anyone who makes a choice leaves alternatives behind. And when your choice is in favor of the needs of others, then often your own comfort is put second. But there is the satisfaction that at least in some areas of the Body, there is an awareness and a sensitivity to the whole. We are a "waking church" and we need the members to stir!

Page seven--

To serve Christ is not an easy life! It is a full one.

Possible one-liners:

"Take yourselves seriously. I do. I take you very seriously."

"Search for your gift. Your gifts. Take a good look at them. Thank God for them."

"Whom do you trust?"

"Who inspires you?"

"Who is/are your hero(es)?"

"When was the last time you, in the privacy of your own heart, knew what you wanted to do with your life?"

"With whom could you share that dream?"

"If you could ask one thing of the Church, what would that be?"

"If you could ask one thing of yourself, what would that be?"

"Are you sure of God's love for you?"

"Could you give a year of service for the Church?"

"If you liked it, could you give one more?"

"Could you give a year of your life to a marriage, to someone you loved?"

"If you liked it, could you give one more?"

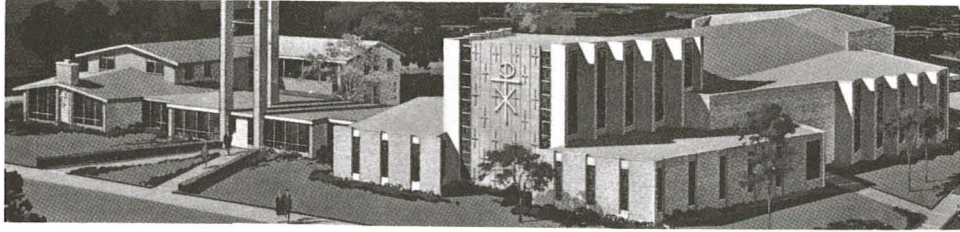
"When was the last time you sensed the unmistakable presence of the Spirit in your life?"

CCPS  
Tom, Kevin

I hope this is helpful, late as it is. If I can be of any further assistance, holler.

B

Church  
of  
Saint  
Joseph



12700 PEARL ROAD • STRONGSVILLE, OHIO 44136 • 238-5555

August 15, 1987

Dear Kevin,

Here are my observations and comments regarding the 'confirmation homily':

There are some beautiful and moving images--but too many for any one to remember them all  
I have suggested some editing; but I'm certain others would include or  
exclude other ideas. You'll have to determine a consensus which will probably  
be difficult

Good emphasis on future & gift

Stronger thrust toward their acceptance of what is demanded as adult

Church's acceptance of them and fellow witnesses in the fellowship of believers  
-mention of this might be good

Kevin, thanks for you accepting putting this all together.

*Larry Martell*

CONFIRMATION HOMILY 1987/1988

HOW PROUD I AM OF YOU TODAY--BROTHERS AND SISTERS. IT IS AMAZING TO SEE YOU, YOUNG ADULT CHRISTIANS, BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF CHRIST, EAGER TO RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHICH WE CALL CONFIRMATION.

YOU RECEIVE A GIFT BECAUSE YOU ALREADY ARE OUR VERY BEST GIFT, AND TODAY GOD CONFIRMS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT THE GIFT YOU ALREADY ARE AND HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TO US ALL. YOUR PARENTS AND TEACHERS STAND WITH YOU--AMAZED NO DOUBT THAT SO VERY SUDDENLY YOU LOOK SO GROWN UP, SO MATURE AND ADULT. WHERE DID MY LITTLE BOY AND LITTLE GIRL GO, THEY WONDER. BROTHERS AND SISTERS, AUNTS AND UNCLES--AND OF COURSE GRANDPARENTS AND EVEN GREAT-GRANDPARENTS--ARE ALL HERE WITH YOU, CHILDREN OF THEIR LOVE, THEIR HOPES AND DREAMS, THEIR JOYS AND SOMETIMES PAIN AND SUFFERING TOO. AND MAYBE FOR SOME OF YOU, A MOM OR DAD OR GRANDPARENT, BROTHER OR SISTER LOOKS DOWN FROM HEAVE WITH SPECIAL JOY UPON YOU TODAY.

YOU ARE THE BEST WE ~~GOT~~<sup>have</sup>, THE BEST WE COULD EVER HOPE FOR, THE BEST WE CAN GIVE TO GOD, AND THE BEST GOD HAS EVER GIVEN TO US.: FOR YOU ARE THE GIFT FROM OUR OF OUR PAST, THE GIFT OF TODAY, AND THE PROMISE OF GIFTS STILL YET TO COME: YOU ARE THE FUTURE: OUR CHILDREN FROM YESTERDAY, OUR YOUTH OF TODAY, OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF TOMORROW: OUR HUSBANDS AND WIVES, MOTHERS AND FATHERS

OF A GENERATION YET TO BE BORN, FRIENDS AND HEALERS AND TEACHERS, BUILDERS OF TOMORROW: YES, YOU ARE OUR COMMITTED CHRISTIAN PEOPLE, FOR YOU ARE THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW: GREAT GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO FASHIONS A CHURCH OUT OF EVERY GENERATION. TODAY IN THIS HOLY SACRAMENT, YOU AND I, YOUNG PEOPLE--BUILD THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW, SANCTIFIED AND FORTIFIED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE SACRAMENTS, NOURISHED BY THE BODY AND BLOOD OF THE LORD, STRONG IN FAITH AND HOPE AND LOVE. YOU ARE THE BUILDERS THEN OF THE FAMILIES, ~~AND~~ SOCIETY, YET TO COME. [ YOU WILL BE OUR CONSECRATED RELIGIOUS MEN AND WOMEN, OUR DEACONS AND PRIESTS, YES EVEN OUR BISHOPS AND POPES. ]

*the Family of the Church*

*None*

SOMEWHERE AT THIS VERY HOUR SOMEONE YOUR VERY OWN AGE, SOMEONE JUST LIKE YOU WITH A MOM AND DAD, LITTLE BROTHER AND BIG SISTER, WITH JOBS AND GAMES AND HOMEWORK, FRIENDS TO PAL AROUND WITH, KIDS TO FIGHT AND ARGUE WITH, PARENTS TO GIVE HEADACHES TO, WITH ALL THE LITTLE STRUGGLES AND VICTORIES, THE GOOF UPS AND MISTAKES, THE CONFUSION THE JOY AND DELIGHT OF BEING YOUNG--ALTOGETHER JUST LIKE YOU--THERE IS A SPECIAL SOMEONE. JUST LIKE YOU FIGHTING ACNE AND PIMPLES, ARGUING AND FIGHTING AND TEASING, WORRYING ABOUT TESTS AND COLLEGE OR POPULARITY, TRYING OUT FOR THE TEAM, WORRYING ABOUT A GIRLFRIEND, TRYING TO KEEP OUT OF TROUBLE--SOMEWHERE THERE IS A KID LIKE YOU WHO GOD WANTS TO BE A NUN, A RELIGIOUS BROTHER, A PRIEST, SOMEDAY A BISHOP OR POPE. YES, SOMEWHERE--SITTING OUT

*AWKWARD SOUNDING*

*Deacon,*

THERE IS TOMORROWS CONSECRATED MAN OR WOMAN, CALLED BY GOD. SOMEWHERE THERE IS A SISTER AND A BROTHER IN A RELIGIOUS ORDER. YES--I AM LOOKING AT YOU--AM I LOOKING AT A PRIEST OR DEACON OR BISHOP--LOOKING BACK AT ME THROUGH THIRTEEN YEAR OLD EYES?

YOU ARE THE SPECIAL GIFT OF GOD, WHATEVER GOD CALLS YOU TO BE. WE WHO ARE OLDER ASRE MUCH ASTONISHED AT THIS GIFT, BECAUSE WE SAW YOU WHEN YOU WERE VERY LITTLE, WE HELD YOU IN OUR HANDS--WHEN YOU WERE SO VERY SMALL AND ALL YOU WERE WAS A CRY AND A NEED FOR FOOD AND (DRINK,) CLOTHES AND SHELTER, AND LOVE. WE TOOK YOU HOME WITH US AND DID OUR BEST--MAKING MISTAKES TO BE SURE, BECAUSE WE ARE HUMAN AND ARE WEAK AND IMPERFECT, NOT BECAUSE WE DID NOT LOVE YOU. LOVE YOU WE DID, <sup>AS BEST AS WE WERE ABLE AND</sup> ~~AND DO AND~~ ALWAYS WILL--FOR GOD HAS GIVEN YOU TO US, THAT WE MIGHT LEARN TO LOVE YOU AS HE HAS FIRST LOVED US--AND SO YOU HAVE BEEN OUR PRECIOUS SCHOOL OF GOD'S OWN LOVE.

BUT TODAY WE SEE THE FUTURE--WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO BE ON ACCOUNT OF THE GREAT GIFTS OF GOD THAT YOU HAVE AND THAT YOU ARE. "TO EACH PERSON THE MANIFESTATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GIVEN FOR THE COMMON GOOD!" ST. PAUL TELLS US IN OUR SECOND READING (1 COR 12:7) --HE IS SPEAKING ABOUT YOU--WE SEE THAT TODAY.

YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN A LOT, BROTHERS AND SISTERS--EVER SINCE YOU WERE BORN INTO THIS WORLD.

Develop here  
What is for the  
common good  
How?

2 Nourishment  
connotations  
of drink



WHAT OTHER COUNTRY OR SOCIETY HAS GIVEN MORE TO ITS YOUNG PEOPLE? PERHAPS SOME OF US HAVE NOT DEALT WITH YOU WISELY. SOME SO-CALLED GIFTS MAY HAVE EXPLOITED YOUR YOUTH AND VULNERABILITY--AND LEFT YOU MORE CONFUSED THAN ENLIGHTENED, MORE HURT THAN BLESSED.

~~I CAN ONLY APOLOGIZE FOR MY GENERATION WHERE WE HAVE BEEN TOO SELF-INDULGENT AND UNCARING TOWARDS YOUR GENERATION.~~ WHERE HARM HAS BEEN DONE YOU, I CAN ONLY CONFESS OUR COMMON GUILT AND BEG YOUR FORGIVENESS. THE GREATEST TRAGEDY WOULD BE IF YOU RETURN INJURY WITH BITTERNESS AND HARDNESS OF HEART. I CAN ONLY OFFER A HAND OF RECONCILIATION AND AMENDS. ~~FORGIVE US WHERE WE HAVE HURT YOU.~~

BUT MUCH OF WHAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED FROM THIS WORLD HAS BEEN GOOD--AND ALL THAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU COMES FROM HEARTS <sup>WHO</sup> ~~IN~~ LOVE WITH YOU. WE GAVE YOU THE BEST WE HAVE AND OUR HOPES AND DREAMS FOR YOU ARE ONLY FOR THE BEST.

MUCH HAS BEEN GIVEN YOU AND THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR FUTURE ARE RICH AND LOVELY. BUT NO MORE THAN IS TRUE FOR US ALL, OF THE OLDER GENERATION, IS IT TRUE FOR YOU AS WELL: NO GIFT IS GIVEN TO ENRICH AND INFLATE THE ONE WHO RECEIVES IT. GIFTS ARE GIVEN TO TRANSFORM AND CHANGE THE ONE WHO RECEIVES--TURNING AN EMPTY AND THIRSTY VESSEL INTO AN OVERFLOWING FOUNTAIN OF MERCY *and life*.  
SPEAKING OF THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, JESUS CRIED OUT:

IF ANYONE THIRSTS, LET HIM COME TO ME;  
LET HIM DRINK WHO BELIEVES IN ME. SCRIPTURE  
HAS IT: "FROM WITHIN HIM RIVERS OF LIVING  
WATER SHALL FLOW." [JOHN 7:37-38]

YOU BECOME WHAT YOU RECEIVE: A GIFT AND THE  
GIVER OF GIFTS! "IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO  
RECEIVE" JESUS TELLS ST. PAUL (CF. ACTS 20:35). MUCH  
HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US, AND THE LORD CALLS US TO GIVE  
IN LIKE MEASURE:

MUCH WILL BE REQUIRED OF THE PERSON ENTRUSTED  
WITH MUCH, AND STILL MORE WILL BE DEMANDED OF  
THE PERSON ENTRUSTED WITH MORE. [LUKE 12:48]

THE SPIRIT THAT YOU RECEIVE TODAY, BROTHERS  
AND SISTERS, IS A STRONG AND POWERFUL WIND OF CHANGE,  
A GIVING SPIRIT, THE AUTHOR OF LIFE ITSELF, Poured OUT  
AND GIVEN LIKE A MIGHTY RIVER, A FLOOD OF AWESOME POWER:  
THE VERY POWER, THE FINGER OF GOD, WHICH TOUCHED AND  
OVERPOWERED EVERY FORCE OF DARKNESS, ILLNESS AND DESPAIR  
SINCE TIME BEGAN. THIS IS THE POWER WHICH LED THE  
HEBREW CHILDREN DRY-SHOD OUT OF BONDAGE INTO THE FREEDOM  
OF THE PROMISED LAND, WHICH CARVED THE LAW ON TABLETS OF  
STONE AND THEN ON HEARTS. THIS SPIRIT OVERCOMES THE  
RELUCTANCE OF SLOW BELIEVERS AND FRAGILE FAITH, AND BUILDS  
BONFIRES OF COURAGE FROM FRIGHTENED TIMBER.

THE SPIRIT YOU RECEIVE IS A GIVING SPIRIT, LOVING,  
AND A DEMANDING SPIRIT--WHO WANTS THE BEST FOR YOU AND

THE VERY BEST OUT OF YOU. THE SPIRIT WHO GIVES  
ALL OF GOD AND ALL OF US TO YOU -- WANTS ALL OF YOU  
FOR GOD!

*Spirit*

"IF TODAY YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, HARDEN NOT  
YOUR HEARTS!" [CF, Ps. 95:7-8] DO NOT REFUSE HIM WHO  
IS SPEAKING TO YOU, CALLING YOU TO GIVE EVERYTHING TO  
GOD. GOD WANTS PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS MEN AND WOMEN,  
DEACONS AND GOSPEL MINISTERS FOR HIS PEOPLE: YOU ARE GIVEN  
GIFTS, GIFTS THAT COME FROM GOD: SPEAK NOW IN YOUR  
HEARTS WITH THE WORDS OF THE BOY SAMUEL IN THE DARK  
OF THE TEMPLE IN AGES PAST: "SPEAK LORD, YOUR SERVANT  
IS LISTENING!" [CF, I SAM. 3:10]

THAT IS WHAT I ASK OF YOU TODAY, BROTHERS  
AND SISTERS--THAT YOU LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF THE HOLY  
SPIRIT WHO IS CALLING YOU. IN THIS WORLD YOU WILL HEAR  
MANY OTHER VOICES AS WELL: CALLING YOU TO BECOME RICH  
AND IMPORTANT, YES EVEN KIND AND GOOD AND GENEROUS,  
TO THE END THAT YOU SHOULD MAKE A MARK IN THIS WORLD  
AND LEAVE SOMETHING OF YOURSELF BEHIND. SOME WILL TELL  
YOU ALSO THAT LIFE COMES AROUND ONLY ONCE, SO GRAB FOR  
ALL THAT YOU CAN GET--POWER, INFLUENCE, MONEY. THESE  
ARE THE SIGNS THAT YOU MATTER, THAT YOU ARE IMPORTANT  
AND MADE A DIFFERENCE.

BUT THE SPIRIT THAT YOU RECEIVE TODAY CALLS  
AS WELL. LEAVE SOMETHING OF CHRIST BEHIND, EVEN IF ONLY  
A DROP OF HIS BLOOD, OR A TEAR FROM HIS EYE, A TOUCH, A  
GLANCE, A CUP OF COLD WATER GIVEN IN HIS NAME. LEAVE NOT

YOURSELF, LEAVE CHRIST BEHIND, SO THAT PEOPLE WILL KNOW THAT HE MATTERS, THAT HE MADE A DIFFERENCE AND MAKES A DIFFERENCE STILL. THE SPIRIT THAT YOU RECEIVE TODAY CALLS YOU TO TAKE UP CHRIST AND TO LIVE HIM. IT PROMISES NOTHING OTHER THAN THAT YOU HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, THE INEXHAUSTIBLE SUPPLY OF GOD'S LOVE. THE ONLY THING MORE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT PROMISES IS HARDSHIP, SUFFERING AND PERSECUTION, WHICH SOUNDS LIKE NO BARGAIN, AND SOME WOULD SAY ONLY A FOOL SHOULD ANSWER THIS CALL. THE SPIRIT ASKS FOR EVERYTHING AND ONLY PROMISES A SHARE IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST--TO LOSE EVERYTHING FOR HIS SAKE.

OMIT { "COME FOLLOW ME" JESUS SAYS TO ST. PETER. WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG YOU USED TO TIE UP YOUR GARMENTS AND GO ABOUT THE WAY YOU PLEASED. BUT NOW THAT YOU ARE OLD, SOMEONE ELSE WILL TIE UP YOUR WAIST AND TAKE YOU WHERE YOU NEVER WANTED TO GO. [CF. JOHN 21:18] IN THAT WAY--JESUS TOLD PETER--AND TELLS ANY OF US WHO LISTEN IN OUR HEARTS FOR THE CALL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT-- THIS IS THE WAY THAT WE SHALL PLEASE GOD. SETTING SELF ASIDE, SERVING OTHERS AND GOD.

TO SERVE GOD IS NOT AN EASY LIFE--TO FOLLOW CHRIST IS TO SHARE IN HIS REDEEMING LOVE WHICH COST HIM HIS LIFE UPON THE CROSS. BUT TO WALK WITH HIM, TO BLESS IN HIS NAME, TO DRAW ALL INTO DEEPER FRIENDSHIP WITH HIM AND WITH ONE ANOTHER, TO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR

CONFIRMATION 87/88 P8

JUSTICE AND PEACE, TO BEAR THE BURDEN OF GOD'S  
CHILDREN AND TO FIND HIS FACE IN HIDDEN PLACES--  
IS TO WALK IN THE FULLNESS OF GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT FOR  
THE LIFE OF THE WORLD, AND TO POSSESS CHRIST FOREVER.

The Church of Saint Ambrose  
Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation  
October 11, 1987  
2:00 p.m.

"Tell those who were invited, See, I have my dinner prepared.  
My bullocks and cornfed cattle are killed; everything is ready.  
Come to the feast!" Matthew 22:4

### Introduction

Bono & U-2: Amnesty International - human rights & peace  
2½ million dollars, doubled membership  
during performance Bono took spotlight away from himself & turned it to youth:  
"You should be in the spotlight"

### I. Confirmandi, you are in the spotlight today:

#### A. Preparation:

1. over a year
2. Nite of Enrollment, Spirit Rally, retreat, Rite of Election, monthly input sessions, service projects, parish involvement, members of STAY

#### B. This Sac. Confirmation represents your understanding and personal choice

### II. This "personal choice" is the primary reason why you are in the spotlight today.

#### A. Reasons why youth are in the media/headlines: drugs, materialism, violence, sexual promiscuity, school absenteeism & drop-outs - NONE OF THESE PHENOMENON REPRESENTS THE YOUTH OF AMERICA & OUR CHURCH!

#### B. Gospel Parable

1. Initially, the story about the Chosen People; but it's about us. You are the ones who have accepted.
2. not simply to a banquet, but to A WAY OF LIFE: a personal choice, a decided choice TO FOLLOW JESUS
3. a way of looking at yourselves: temples of the Holy Spirit  
a way of looking at others: sisters and brothers  
a way of looking at the world: it must be transformed, changed (no more war, discrimination, drug abuse, materialism)

#### C. Corinth.: a way of looking at your gifts: for the common good:

1. "To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."
2. Your development & skills, your future careers, to make the world a better place in which to live
3. as you discern your future, consider priesthood & religious life: a very special way in which to keep the memory of Jesus alive, to be a sign of the kingdom of God, to nourish the people of God with sacramental and spiritual gifts, to give yourself completely to preaching the Word of God.  
IN THIS DARK HOUR OF HISTORY, OUR COUNTRY AND WORLD, OUR CHURCH, HAS A SPECIAL NEED FOR PRIESTS AND SISTERS AND BROTHERS

### III. Conclusion

- A. "The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces" (Isaiah 25:5).
- B. You are in the spotlight - as bearers of the Good News of Jesus Christ
- C. Let us turn to the Rite of Confirmation and the Holy Table



The Church of Saint Mark  
Confirmation  
December 5, 1987  
Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

### Introduction

In his book THE POWER WITNIN YOU,  
Pat Williams of the Philadelphia 76ers  
tells a remarkable story.

It was a hot Sunday afternoon in 1980.  
A young cerebral palsy victim  
named Cordell Brown  
was walking through the clubhouse  
of the World Champion Philadelphia Phillies.

Cordell walks with great difficulty.  
He talks with great difficulty.  
Feeding himself is a very difficult task.

When people see Cordell coming,  
they usually turn the other way  
or pretend not to see him.  
That's what some of the Phillies were doing  
as Cordell made his way through the clubhouse.

What was Cordell doing in the Phil's clubhouse?  
He had been invited there to speak  
to the players in a pregame chapel service.

What could Cordell possibly say to stars  
like Steve Carleton and Mike Schmit,  
who were far removed  
from his world of pain and deformity?

Some of the Phillies were asking the same thing  
when they sat down to listen to him.

Cordell began by putting the players at ease.  
He said, "I know I'm different."  
Then, quoting I Corinthians 15:10, he added,  
"But, by God's grace, I am what I am."

For the next 20 minutes  
Cordell Brown talked about the goodness of God  
in his life.  
He concluded by answering the question,  
What could he say to famous superstars  
like Steve Carleton and Mike Schmit,  
who were so far removed  
from his world of pain and deformity?

"I send my messenger before you  
to prepare your way:  
a herald's voice in the desert, crying,  
'Make ready the way of the Lord,  
clear him a straight path."

Cordell said in a loving way:  
You may hit three-fifty for a lifetime  
and be paid a million dollars a year,  
but when the day comes  
that they close the lid on that box,  
you won't be any different than I am.  
That's one time when we'll be the same.

"I don't need what you have in life,  
but one thing's for sure:  
You need what I have,  
and that's Jesus Christ."

I. Like John the Baptizer, Cordell  
Brown prepared "the way of the Lord:

- a. telling his story
- b. WITNESS
- c. pain-filled body  
deformity ::  
camel's hair, grasshoppers,  
honey, leatherbelt

II. Father Joe Wagner

- a. acknowledge retirement
- b. WITNESS
- c. joy and peace
- d. vocations

III. Confirmandi

- a. symbol of service projects
- b. talents - for others
- c. like Cordell Brown, you  
have difficulties &  
challenges: face them with  
faith

IV. CORDELL, FR. WAGNER, & YOU:

- a. can do all with Holy Spirit