PROLOGUE

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; 
...He leads me besides still waters."
-Ps 23:1-2

Upon arriving at Riverside on June 1st, it was quite noticeable that 
this was a building undergoing a major transition, a transition, as we were 
to learn in Hospital Orientation, caused by the merger of two, well-established 
medical care facilities, one Roman Catholic--St. Mary's--one Lutheran--Fairview 
Riverside. Daily as we walked the halls we saw signs of reconstruction: old 
names replaced by new ones, a new logo, walls being refurbished with fresh 
paint and new wallpaper. While at times it could seem a bit depressing, esp 
walking through 3rd floor surgery section, yet somehow there seemed to be 
new life happening within the old physical plant of the newly formed corpora-
tion. Somehow in reflecting upon my experiences here these past 10½ weeks, 
I find that all quite symbolic for my life, and it is in that spirit, that 
I write this final evaluation.

I. ATTITUDES & GOALS

A. Initial Attitudes:

I have been aware of the CPE Program for quite some time. I have had friends 
and confreres over the years participate in such programs primarily as prepara-
tion for ordained ministry within the Roman Catholic Church. What I heard from 
them were primarily the horror stories of dealing with unreasonable supervisors, 
crabby patients and in-the-middle-of-the-night emergencies. But there were 
also stories about good patient experiences and experiences of growth and self-
discovery. When I approached our Abbot Jerome about my being ordained, I knew 
that it would require of me to spend a summer away from the Abbey partici-
pating in such a program myself.

Based on things I had heard, I began to be filled with many questions. I 
had met my supervisor-to-be in November, and her attitude had been so positive 
and inviting that I didn't think our relationship would be a problem. However, 
I did wonder about my fellow CPE-ers. What would they be like? Would there be 
a mix of male and female? Would they all be Catholic? How would we get along? 
How much involvement in hospital life would be expected? What area of the 
hospital would I be assigned to work in? How would I do? Could I handle 
tough situations of dying and death?

I have always had the usual "fear of the unknown" at the beginning of a 
new experience. What compounded the anxiety was not only did I have a new 
type of program to experience, but a new type of living arrangement in an
to come to grips with who I am as person, and then seeing that they had
to go together and work together --- I am who I am as person before I am
minister, and I bring who I am when I minister.

And above all, these seminars gave me a chance to not only hear myself
discuss theological concerns and issues openly and freely --- something that
I had doubted and feared failure --- but also to experience the discussion
with others of differing ideas, traditions and backgrounds and not have
to fight a Crusade over defending my ideas --- they were respected and affirmed.

V. GROWING EDGES

A. Personal:

There were two major learning experiences for me this summer that have
affected my personal life. The first revolves around the identification of
my inner critic as a male in a Franciscan habit, namely my father. This has
resulted in my viewing all male authority figures in my life, let alone my
concept of God, as if I were relating to my dad. I tend then to try to please,
of living in fear of doing the "wrong thing". This has been central to
my low self esteem and poor self image. The second was a more recent discovery,
though it has also been with me for a long time. This has to do with my
relationship with my brother. I have emotional needs that I seek out with
men, younger than myself, to fill those not being met because of the gap that
has come to exist with Tom. I think this may have been part of the problem
of my not being able to engage Tim as well as my monastic classmate, David.
Mary has strongly suggested that I continue dealing with these issues in
therapy, so it is my plan to share this evaluation as well as Mary's report
with both my therapist in St. Cloud as well as with my Abbot.

I do also need to continue to deal with how I receive feedback from
people on my "performance" so that I try to hear the positive as positive,
up-building and affirming. In those cases, I need to be able to say "thank
you", acknowledging the feedback and affirming myself --- take credit for who
I am, and to hear the negative not as demeaning to my personhood, but as
growthful --- and if there is spite to hear it as "the other person's" problem.
The other technique I would like to continue is one that Mary suggested on
11A, that is, after an experience that somehow makes an impression on me, to
spend some time in reflecting on how I acted, ask what it was that I did
positively, and what I could have done better or in addition to (NOT did
WRONG) Again, keeping in touch with the therapist. I am also thinking of
either changing my spiritual director to a woman or simply make it a point
to find a woman religious that I can see in addition to the monk with whom
I am working now.

B. Professional:

For me, I think I see this as two-fold. The first area is in relationships
within the Community. Many of what I said above will carry over here. The
thing that I need to keep in mind is that for me, first and foremost,
the men before me on a daily basis are my brothers, and members of the Body
of Christ. Christ's presence dwells within them. I need to treat them as peers,
fellow Sons of the Loving Father. They are not there to fill the void of
a poor relationship with my brother.