

Michael E. Bik OSB  
Final Evaluation  
Clinical Pastoral Education  
Riverside Medical Center, Mpls.  
June 1 - August 14, 1992  
Rev Mary Sacco, Supervisor

## 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 corporation. 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 preparation 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 participating 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 had 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.