

Alerding- Prior's report

We were asked to share a few insights with you on what we learned about priorship. Maybe I should start this by saying that you all know that interns in religious houses are unlike interns at base. right? there is a totally different dynamic going on. Now that I have said that, we can be more objective about that. For me, the 4 quarters of the year are like our phaseology, the first quarter in the fall is phase 1. that is youth. That is where the romanticism is. that is where the excitement is. Where we are just finishing now Phase two, the winter quarter. For me that phase two is where you are beginning to deepen the spirit. past the romanticization that was therein phase one. and beginning as you do in the Phase two. you begin to be the conqueror. To pick up responsibility for the region. and you can anticipate that this is where your biggest spirit struggles get manifested in the house. That they will manifest themselves in relationship to the external task that shows up in reference to the work needing to be done in a region. The refusal to be the conqueror. It will come in ways, like people scream that they want to stay in the house more and do some more internal study. They want more personal spirit training. They will stay at work a little later at night when, particularly on the nights when we are doing the planning. and they will find it harder to pick up the 2000 pound telephone to get grads to get out into the region, and to go out in forays to recruit and penetrate and formulate This is where you can anticipate your spirit struggle will be in Phase Two, the winter quarter, and that is true. It dawned on me this year that anybody who comes into the order via the religious house has finally three d- two decisions to make, or one of two decisions to make. Either he is going to decide after a year, and I think now it needs to be at

least two years to go back into his local church as a prior, as somebody who is going to enable/that kind of spiritdiscipline to stand in his congregation so that when it looks like ~~it~~ it is going to collapse, they don't. That is valuable for the local church. Or the other decision is to stay in the order and become priors, but in this realm to train others to be priors to carry on that work. Either way it is to be priors. So I see the job as a prior as one who is always at the job of training priors. Another thing that hit me in that arena is that once, you have been assigned as a prior, you have been ordained for life. It doesn't make any difference whether you are going to be prior of the Winnepeg house or some~~thing~~/ other house or some other area of the world. You are a prior for life and that is still true whether you show up at base carrying ~~the~~/ toilet paper to the jons every day or carrying paper over to the printshop or staying-in China 5 years from now. Training 5,000 Chinese in this great two week construct. It makes no difference, you are a prior forever once you have been assigned. and that assignment I have discovered has nothing to do with where you are at in the first instance, It is always true but it shows up more particularly true where you have been assigned. Joe Pierce got very clearly articulated to me some years ago the image that ~~it~~/the child's role in life is to be disobedient. That is where he can push his parents to find out where the ultimate NO is. and I have found as a ~~the~~ prior that if you go ahead and assume that the role of intern is basically to irk the shit out of you then you don't have any/more/problems about that. Once you understand that and you understand your role of prior, you are never out to correct their moral faults. Our moralism gets called into question all the time. As many of time you will sit down and stew at night to find that you fell into the problem of trying to correct a moral fault. That is not what you are out to as a prior and particularly that is true in the winter quarter. If you have some problem with swearing all you need to do is have some

youth and children in your house and you will never will that moral battle. But when you invite the Mother Superior for a weekend in your house, and that is critical, then you sit down and read Stl Paul to them, the whole house and remind them that we are after dealing with their consciense, not theirs but their neighbors and when mother superior shows up even little 3 year old Winrow who has some pretty good names for her colleagues now that she can speak, she even learns how to say Mother Superior sweetly. But you are never out to deal with anybody's moralisms but you are out to deal with mission. It is what I call mission ontology. What is the mission required. And you will find out that anything with moral problems ~~is~~ gets straightened out when you get the mission required, then you can go back to swearing again. what does the mission require. and one other word there is: the priors role in the first instance, is not to bring off my rregion, so that I can go around worrying whether I am a good prior or not by what facts and figures I can show you about how successfully my region is. Horse manure. Now, having said that your role is to bring off the region but you are the only prior in the region and when you look at the movemental dynamic, you are prior of every soul in that house, you are prior of every soul in that galaxy, you are prior of every soul in that region, and if you don't like that come up to where I am and you are prior of every soul in that area.

But you better see they come off. What ~~they~~ you are after is geo-spiritual training. And finally, you don't know what that looks like and you can't judge that. -Wha-

What kept us is being this - 6 things quickly

1 The community paper. I has to be taught at least once if not twice a year in the religious