

Worksheet on the Priest's Early Relationship with the Parish

- + Please fill in and bring with you to the next session.
- + This is primarily for your own use. It will not be collected. You should only share what you want to share in next week's session.

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Answer the following in terms of your first year in your present cure.

1. Identify "power contests" with leading laypersons (or Rector if you are a curate).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. In what ways were you compared to other clergy?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What inappropriate demands were made on you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What inappropriate demands did you make on others?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How did you deal with the "chronically dependent" people who came to you?

6. To what extent did you find yourself doing the following?

a. Blaming, complaining, giving angry messages to the congregation -

Very / / / / / / A  
little / 1/ 2/ 3/ 4/ 5/ lot

b. Getting involved outside the parish - joining causes, taking on diocesan work, going for continuing education, moonlighting, etc.

Very / / / / / / A  
little / 1/ 2/ 3/ 4/ 5/ lot

c. Emotionally or physically withdrawing from people

Very / / / / / / A  
little / 1/ 2/ 3/ 4/ 5/ lot

d. Allowing your spiritual disciplines to drift, fall apart, etc.

Very / / / / / / A  
little / 1/ 2/ 3/ 4/ 5/ lot

e. Complaining (or day dreaming about idealized situations or people (Why can't it be like .....?))

Very / / / / / / A  
little / 1/ 2/ 3/ 4/ 5/ lot

f. Pushing people with "grand dreams" of renewal, being servants, sharing the ministry, etc.

Very / / / / / / A  
little / 1/ 2/ 3/ 4/ 5/ lot

g. Pushing yourself with "grand projects"

Very / / / / / / A  
little / 1/ 2/ 3/ 4/ 5/ lot

7. When and how did you begin to be asked to share in people's most important life concerns?

8. Check the internal pressures you felt. Which were the strongest?

- a. Desire for approval ( )
- b. Fear of incompetence ( )
- c. Desire for achievement ( )
- d. Desire for control ( )
- e. Fear of criticism and rejection ( )
- f. Desire for affection ( )

9. What, if any, were the sign of overwork?

10. Which people were most important in providing emotional support during the year?

11. Which people (or books, or events) were most important in helping you see what was happening in terms of your spiritual life and formation?

12. Go back over your answers -

- a. Identify issues that continue to be forces in your life (Put a "C" in the margin)
- b. Identify no more than two of these issues that you would like to talk about (Some of this might take place in our next session, some you should arrange for with people such as those you identified in #10 and #11.)