

SO, FOR THE 15 WHO WERE ORDAINED--FROM THAT ORIGINAL 85--THE '60s WERE HARSH, WORRISOME. LIFE'S ULTIMATE JIGSAW WAS MISSING SOME PIECES. THEY WERE TRAINED FOR A CLASSIC ROLE IN A WORLD THAT EMBRACED SECULARISM. THE CHALLENGE WAS TO MAKE THEIR CLASSIC RELIGION RELEVANT TO A MODERN SOCIETY THAT MAY HAVE BEEN MAKING COMPUTERS AND ATOMS ITS GODS AND LAUNCH PADS ITS CATHEDRALS.

THEY WERE THE LUBRICANT IN THE MASHING (NOT THE MESHING) OF THE GEARS. THEY WERE, IN MY VIEW, TRAPPED IN ECCLESIASTICAL TRANSFER FROM OLD TO NEW. THE YOUNG WERE NOT INTERESTED IN THEIR MESSAGE, WHILE THE OLD, OFFENDED BY THE CHANGES, WERE NOT HEARING THE NEW MESSAGE.

THEY HAD BEEN TRAINED AND EDUCATED FOR A DIFFERENT ROLE IN A DIFFERENT SOCIETY. IT WAS AS IF THEY HAD SPENT 13 YEARS LEARNING TO PLAY AN EXQUISITE, PERFECTED GAME OF BASKETBALL. THEN AFTER ALL THE TRAINING, THE PLAYERS WERE PUT ON A FOOTBALL FIELD TO COMPETE AS BEST THEY COULD.

OF THE 15 WHO WERE ORDAINED, THERE WERE 15 MASTERS DEGREES, THREE DOCTORATES, SEVEN MARRIAGES (THREE TO EX-NUNS), SIX CASES OF ALCOHOLISM, ONE SUICIDE. FIVE REMAIN TODAY AS PRIESTS.