

Division of Personnel 1983-84

"...This kind of experience should be part of the normal pattern of growth to ministry, and every priest should plan to take advantage of the opportunities that such a program presents.

The unique aspect of the sabbatical experience is that it contains a spiritual, an intellectual, and a recreational component. Each of these is important to the overall effect of one's renewal..."

+ Matthew H. Clark, D.D.
Bishop of Rochester

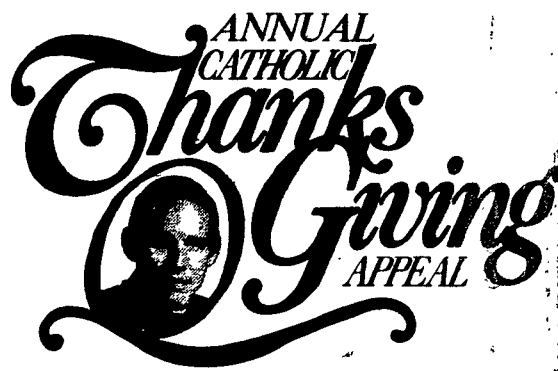
A priest is eligible for a sabbatical leave every seven years after ordination. It is expected that a sabbatical will be from three to six months in duration. Ten applications have been approved by Bishop Clark for the 1983-84 academic year.

The spiritual component of the overall program is generally satisfied through a retreat experience. A participant may elect to begin or to conclude the sabbatical with this particular experience.

The intellectual component may be identified with attendance at one of a number of educational facilities throughout the world. The most popular have been New York Province Priests' Institute in Dunwoodie; Louvain, Belgium; the University of Notre Dame; and the North American College in Rome. In addition, creative individual programs are encouraged and evaluated for approval by the Sabbatical Committee.

Every candidate is urged to consider a rest and recreation component that best suits his particular preference. This activity is considered a very essential part of the program for personal reflection and "re-creation" of body and spirit.

Finally, the educational component offers to those eligible the opportunity to use this sabbatical experience as credit toward the Master of Divinity degree from St. Bernard's Institute.



SABBATICALS
FOR
PRIESTS
OF
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, N.Y.

First of all, sabbatical meant people to me. We were 21 priests from all over the state. It was a varied group, which soon jelled into being a community.

The atmosphere of the seminary was a real haven in a very busy metropolis. You knew you were in a holy place.

The professors came from different seminaries, universities or professions. Their approach varied - modern, traditional - but all strived to teach the truths of faith in an objective, yet informative way. The experience was mind-expanding. It was helpful to understand that many situations do not have cut-and-dried solutions. It strengthened the concept that the success of any parish activity depends not only on clerical leadership, but also on the sincere effort of concerned lay people.

The whole experience was very helpful to me personally, and, in the long term, helpful to the parishioners. Every participant realized that there is so much yet to be learned. We left this experience saying that we never cease being students.

Fr. Richard J. Orlando, Pastor
St. Michael's, Lyons
Sabbatical at Dunwoodie, Yonkers



Over a period of three months, about 35 priests from various United States dioceses attended lectures for four hours a day at the Casa Santa Maria in Rome, Italy. Some of the subjects included Spirituality and the American Priest, Contemporary Trends in Philosophy, General Biblical Studies, the Prophets, Judaic and Islamic Thought, Canon Law, Ecclesiology, and Morality.

The program allows sufficient time for leisure and some travel. The group made a personal nine-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Many individuals took advantage of opportunities to travel to various places in Europe.

This was a reliving of "the beautiful experiences of long-past seminary years: splendid liturgies, quiet times of prayer and study, the brilliance and dedication of professors, the thrill of theological investigation...the fellowship of students, a remembering of the very factors that drew one to the priesthood. It's like falling in love again!"

Fr. John J. Philippe, Pastor
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Brockport
Sabbatical at the North American College, Rome



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