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 Separating the religious life from other vocations is the belief that prayer is the force driving everything else. Prayer is the channel enabling limited men and women to tap into the power of an unlimited God. It is a spiritual yeast enlarging our human efforts for a potentially eternal harvest.

■ Pallottine Brother James W. Beamesderfer, S.A.C., understands this spiritual truth. For

Brother Jim, who is 29, each day begins with a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament at 6 A.M. Following the Holy Hour is Mass which Brother Jim describes as, "the most important event of the day for me." But there are a number of other spiritual events on the daily agenda of a Pallottine Brother. Mid-day community prayer usually includes prayer composed by the founder, St. Vincent Pallotti. The

community gathers again in the evening for the Divine office. Then Brother Jim takes time by himself for spiritual reading and the rosary. It is an agenda that often takes three hours a day. But for Brother Jim it provides the nucleus from which all else flows.

■ "I have a great desire to live in community bound by the the religious consecration. I entered (the Pallottines) to love God and let him love me. I did not enter for a particular function. Out of my relationship with God comes my ministries. I feel I am responding to God's call to be a brother. God is the most important aspect of my life. So whatever He calls me to do I want to do it."

Brother James W. Beamesderfer, S.A.C.

■ His novice master, Fr. Oreste Pandola, S.A.C., helped him develop this spiritual worldview. Father Pandola's personal example "spoke volumes" to Brother Jim.

■ His current ministry is to serve as Director of the Pallottine Development Office at their headquarters in central Baltimore. Most of his energies are directed to promotion of the St. Iude Shrine there. Brother Iim mails prayers. monthly letters, and holy cards to supporters of the Shrine throughout the 50 states. To prepare him for his current duties he attended the Catholic University in Washington, D.C. He was awarded a bachelor's degree in 1990 in religion and religious education.

■ He was attracted to the Pallottines because of the order's diversity. St. Vincent Pallotti had a range of interests as broad as people's needs in his day. Those interests were, however, focused through exacting spiritual disciplines. Even today Pallottines take 6 promises. In addition to the traditional promises of poverty,

chastity, and obedience they commit themselves to promises of perseverance, sharing of resources, and a spirit of service.

 Perseverance binds members to the life of the community. Sharing of resources means that everything Pallottines receive - from money to academic training belongs to all. The Spirit of Service calls them to share with the broader community around them. These extra

promises help them interpret how they will live the first three.

■ On August 8 Brother Jim took these final promises after six years of preparation. Ceremonies were held at the Shrine of St. Jude in Baltimore by Pallottine Provincial, the Very Rev. Peter T. Sticco, S.A.C. Brother Jim's parents, Robert and Linda Beamesderfer and his sisters,

Bobbi, Melinda, and Veronica were present. A total of 450 gathered to wish him well.

Father Peter describes Brother Jim as a prayerful man who is "skilled in both the material and spiritual treasures of the Church." Father says the Brotherhood

is open to all ministries within the church that do not require ordination to the priesthood. But Father Peter stresses that

the Brotherhood is essentially "a person's calling. They are answering the call of God."

■ Among the observers was Father Joseph Capella, S.A.C., Director of Vocations for the Immaculate Conception Province. Father Joe says that the religious life is incomplete without a vibrant Brotherhood. He praised Brother Iim for his spirit of service—a quality that permeates the many administrative tasks he must do now. How appropriate that Brother Jim would make a formal vow to something he's already been doing for years. But the truly defining factor for Brother Jim is the same for all Pallottine Brothers: Their actions all flow from their prayers. As Father Joe says it, "If they're not foundationally men of prayer there is no difference between them and secular society."



For information about the Pallottines, contact: Fr. Joseph P. Capella, S.A.C., P.O. Box 5099, Hyattsville, MD 20782, or call: 301-422-3705.

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