

St Paul Day 82

Dear Lordship,

I've been writing this & holding it for a couple of weeks now - and trying to get organized in the meantime.

The job at ICEL panned out. I really don't know why although Fr Rotelle said at this stage I didn't have enough administrative experience or church commissions. I really don't know what he meant because in December he indicated the job was more - dependent on episcopal release etc. I had asked him a year ago or more about specific qualifications other than general liturgy (e.g. music, languages) and he said that was not needed. I imagine that there must have been some budgetary problems - or a better applicant - even though in December he had told me there was none.

I was going to seek alternatives with people like B.C.L. but on reflection I realized that it would only be beaten around the bush for an excuse to stay Stateside. So I've booked passage down under for post Easter & am trying to sell my car without a loss - which I hope to do although the American economy is hitting the rocks into a recession.

I suppose even seeking the job at ICEL was in one way a continuation of putting off the future. I really love this country & feel very much at home here. In part I want to make it my home. However I know that I can't make that decision living here where every thing is going my way. I know I still have to do what John Keane said is necessary - to go home & lay the ghosts of my past to rest - in whatever way that can be done. pro

Being over here I feel secure & free, but I know the best way is
 decide w/in 15 having done what I should have done last year when I
 was down under. Looking back I know I just ran scared straight
 back here where I'm safe. Thinking back I realize you tried to help
 me see that. However I was just plain scared - still am in way.
 whatever though - I know I have to make my decisions from a
 basis of having at least tried so that I can have a more accurate
 base of comparison to choose from.

The hard works in strange & mysterious ways and I
 sometimes (?) bemoan the fact that the isn't a little less obscure -
 especially with this smart son. My basic problem is that I don't
 comprehend why he loves me. - yet I know he does.

Before Christmas I was called in by a pausitioner to
 speak with her son about religion. At 16 this guy (24.y.o.) was
~~she~~ diagnosed as schizophrenia although I didn't know this until
 later. Anyway the last thing [REDACTED] needed was a discussion on
 the interpretation of Revelation, which he had been reading. He was in
 the last stages of entering a complete emotional breakdown. It took
 me 6 hours to cajole etc him in going to the local psych hospital.
 He absolutely feared it. Unfortunately psychiatric help in the
 state leaves a lot to be desired & the guy has been deeply
 scared over the last 8 years. However the breakdown mandated
 hospitalization & pharmaceutical intervention. To cut this short, I
 worked a lot with her & her family - in hospital & often well
 into February. Alongside this I asked a professionally
 trained friend of mine to work with me. For the 1st time in 8 years
 I think I was the 1st to have gotten through to [REDACTED] & see that he
 was ~~still~~ the most malleable curable given the right help. You see
 Karen & I both started to realize he wasn't schizophrenic -
 severely emotionally disordered for sure, but he has too much

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of a tremendous variety basis for schizophrenia - and so he is
 treatable with behaviour modification therapy. During this time
 [REDACTED] exhibited behavioural upsets down's but I had no trouble
 controlling him - rather helping him control himself - whereas everyone
 else did - family doctor nurses etc. I was literally on 24 hour call.
 I thought it was clinically usual, one of [REDACTED] biggest handicaps as
 schizophrenogenic family who to a great extent unconsciously contribute
 to his "remainery" sick. It removes his ability to see normally
 as a choice between getting well - and his family does. And of
 course he hasn't the emotional structure to make that choice or see
 the subtleties involved. - and I might add neither does his family.

[REDACTED] & I were one day away from getting him into an excellent (state) therapy program in Norfolk when it all collapsed.
 It was imperative therapeutically that [REDACTED] himself have acquiescence
 to such a program for it to be effective. At time concerning and
 was [REDACTED] had gotten [REDACTED] to that stage. Unfortunately he also started
 to see his family as holding him back. He progressed when I was with
 him for sessions, but regressed when I went off - to other work or home etc
 So on a Friday night when I was out to dinner & he couldn't reach
 me he ran away looking for me. He turned up at 10am. This was
 the final straw for his mother [REDACTED] who coexisted more anymore with
 his behavioral tantrums, & so they shang him back into T.P.T.
 The devastating thing is that all the hospital & his psychiatrist
 obvious drug him? Even then twice that weekend I was called
 to the hospital to persuade him to stay there - against my better
 judgment. After that I have had no contact or involvement
 although [REDACTED] has. I ended up completely emotionally &
 physically exhausted. I feel I have been witness to the most
 unnecessary destruction of another persons chances that I have
 ever seen. And havin been given such chances in my own life

I have been literally haunted by what those parents have done to their son - just because they couldn't cope and yet we were so close to getting the guy his 1st chance at real therapy. You have no idea how it hurt & still does. To see such potential for someone who thought he had ~~no~~ no possibility & to teach him to see that he had & to want it & then see others take it away. Of course I know the clinical reasons for these actions - its not untypical. If doctor we were going to use warned us of the possibility. In extreme anxiety other things, [REDACTED] mother had grown dependent on his dependence for her. He was 'kept' sick. I have never felt so helpless or depressed as a result of seeing hundreds of hours of work for another just wasted because of a 3rd party's inability to cope themselves. We have & felt so used. I think since then I've gone the whole gamut from extreme depression to just wanting to quit the priesthood. But as I said the Lord works in mysterious ways. Perhaps in having realized that [REDACTED] parents are unable to comprehend & face facts, I know I can't fall into the same trap. I have to face the future and in all ways leave from the past, confront it and move on. In the midst of all this I have despairs that I was worth anything - yet I know that's not true - perhaps its all so close to home. - "Then but for the grace of God....". I've been lucky - I'm basically very good at what I do and God has given me many gifts. & - not least of which is the priesthood.

Running from it all is no answer. So my returning to Australia whilst a relief from a situation I have no control over is also a blessing in that its reconstructive. I need to do what John urged me to do - and yet I know that I must do it in a way that is helpful to me. I've never had much of a self image, but by now I'm now going to let go now. I've never seen a person I worked with

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REDACTED one like [REDACTED] whose concept of self & self worth has been so completely m'nted. And I have never seen how effectively destructive another's controlendo to a persons self image - as [REDACTED] parents are to him & his self image. I have never seen how much control over another's life can be so effective in preventing them from making their own life. As a minor - my God!

As I write this I don't know what you make of this my bad thoughts. Its part of me - and I want to share it with you. I know you have been marvellously supportive of me & my meanderings. I really don't know why & I don't see what there is to you. I really believe theres none.

As soon as I get home & can borrow wheels I'll be up to see & talk with you. I don't know what yrs if you need me. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss with you the possibility of my teaching - at least for the rest of this year. I have some contacts in schools in Newhaven & suspect I won't have much problem. I love teaching & it would be a good opportunity for me to regroup & feel my way. - given the cost of cars it would give me the chance to save up a down payment too. You did say something to me last year about Hydrog & delivery office. So they need a Muni teacher at St Pauls late oct. com? If I could be of help there that would be ok..

In the meantime I hope this finds you well.
Please remember me in your prayers especially during Easter

Yours in Christ
Paul Ryan