



Chaplain's Corner

College Experience Produces Loneliness

(Editor's note: The "Chaplain's Corner" is a column prepared by Fr. Quigley, O.P. of the Chaplain's Office. During the past year it appeared intermittently in the COWL. Beginning in September, the "Chaplain's Corner" will become a regular column. This article is a November 14, 1973 reprint.)

There was a story in the magazine *Change* not so long ago that went something like this. A young college student was speaking with an interviewer. "In high school it was easy. I could put things off till the end and then I'd cram. No sweat! The marks were decent, the social life great. I knew a lot of kids and went out often. It was really fun and I had a good time. I was involved and people knew me."

The student then went on to tell about how college was on everybody's mind toward the end of senior year. Would they get in a school? Would they get in a school they wanted to go to? Graduation came around and then a summer

job. The job was boring but you could look forward to going away to school in September. The idea was exciting. The day arrived and we were off. "In the midst of their parents, two sisters and Uncle William, they suddenly felt lonely. Everybody was there, waving and

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Fr. James Quigley, O.P. — PC's new Chaplain.

College Appoints New Chaplains

Providence (CNS) — The administration of Providence College has named Fr. James F. Quigley, O.P. to replace Fr. Paul Walsh, O.P. as Chaplain of the College. Joining Fr. Quigley in the Chaplain's Office will be Frs. David Folsey, Stuart McPhail, and Hugh McBrien. These four men are to occupy the posts vacated by Fr.

Walsh and Fr. Joseph DiNoia, O.P. who have taken a leave of absence from PC.

Fr. Quigley holds an M.A. in philosophy from St. Stephen's College, Dover, Mass. He also earned his S.T.L. and S.T.Lr. in theology from Pontifical Faculty of Washington, D.C. Fr. Quigley is a 1960 graduate of PC. He was ordained in 1965. From 1966-1969 he served as Chaplain and Religious Studies professor in Universidad Marianista, Chimbote, Peru. In 1969 he was named the Director of Vocations for the Dominican Fathers. He held that position until 1971. Since 1969 he has been an Instructor of Religious Studies and Assistant Chaplain at PC.

Fr. Folsey was ordained in 1960. He holds degrees of S.T.L. and S.T.Lr. in theology and an M.A. in Religious Education from Catholic University. His teaching experience includes four years at Christian Brothers College in Memphis and four years with the Religious Studies department at PC, where he also served as Assistant Chaplain. During the years 1970-1973, he did doctoral studies in theology at St. Paul University and Ottawa University.



Assistant Chaplain, Fr. Hugh McBrien, O.P.



Assistant Chaplain, Fr. David Folsey, O.P.



Assistant Chaplain, Fr. Stuart McPhail, O.P.

Fr. Quigley Consents to Interview

(Editor's note: The following is an edited and transcribed interview with Fr. James Quigley, O.P., the Chaplain of Providence College. The questions were compiled by Edward Cimini, Ann Frank, and Stephen Silvestri of the COWL Editorial Board. Mr. Cimini and Mr. Silvestri conducted the interview on May 24, 1974.)

Fr. Quigley: I started working in the Office when I first came here — about four and one-half years. I was an assistant to Fr. Walsh in the Chaplain's Office; prior to that I'd been a chaplain at a small college or teachers' college in South America. I also taught in the religious studies department there, as I do here.

COWL: Which do you enjoy more — your work as a chaplain or as a teacher?

COWL: What is the Chaplain's Office?

Fr. Quigley: The Chaplain's Office is not so much a place as it is a team of people. Frs. McPhail, McBrien, Folsey and myself make up that team. This team of people is at the service of the faculty, the staff and the student body of Providence College. Its goal is to help people develop themselves completely — socially, intellectually, and spiritually.

COWL: How long have you personally been with the Chaplain's Office?

Fr. Quigley: As a chaplain. COWL: Why?

Fr. Quigley: It puts me in a pastoral relationship with the people: students, faculty and staff. I prefer that kind of a relationship as a priest. I've also tried to relate in that way in the classroom. I guess there is no strict dichotomy between the two. I do identify in my own mind as a chaplain.

COWL: Briefly, give us your personal background.

Fr. Quigley: I grew up in New York City. I graduated from PC in 1960, entered the Dominican Order, and was ordained in 1965. I have a Masters degree in philosophy and have what is called a license and doctorate in theology. After that I went to South America for three years. While there, I taught and was Chaplain in a small college. That school is no longer in existence; it was leveled by the 1968 earthquake. While there, I did a number of things — army

chaplain, jail chaplain, hospital chaplain — simply because of the few personnel involved. It was a great experience. The Peruvian people are really, really good people. Then I came up to the states and was named as Director of Vocations which is a recruiting post for the Dominican Order. Just prior to that I had begun taking graduate courses in sociology at Fordham. Then I began teaching as an Instructor in the Religious Studies department here at PC. At the same time I served as an assistant to Fr. Walsh.

COWL: What type of man must a Chaplain, such as yourself, be?

Fr. Quigley: I don't want it to seem as though this is a sermon or that I'm preaching. I think you can scare off more people by being "oh yes, come in and I can help you with all your problems"-type... We have to honestly care, to understand, to listen and we must have it in a low key. How we're going to do that — we'll tell you next year after it has all worked out. I personally find it difficult to follow a chaplain and a man like

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Fr. McPhail was ordained in 1969. His degrees include an S.T.L. and S.T.Lr. in theology. Fr. McPhail studied history at Boston University and Catholic University. He is a member of the PC History department. His teaching experience includes one year, 1971, at Albertus Magnus College located in New Haven, and the DWC program at PC.

Fr. McBrien was ordained in 1948. For a number of years he served as Chaplain at PC after teaching in the college's Theology department. In the early 1960's he left PC to pursue doctoral studies in theology. He holds his S.T.L., S.T.Lr. and S.T.D. in theology. He became the Director of the St. Thomas Aquinas Foundation. Later, Fr. McBrien was elected and served for three years as Prior of St. Mary's Church and community in New Haven. Fr. McBrien is the Executive Director of CARA, a research center in Washington, D.C. Since 1972 he has been the Assistant to the Vice President for Development at the College.

We are looking for guitarists, singers, and people willing to read at Mass. Please give your name and number to Fr. Quigley. We will get in touch with you about a meeting.

Thank you,
The Chaplain's Office

Chaplain's Office: General Information

SUNDAY MASS IN AQUINAS CHAPEL

Saturday 6:30 p.m.
Sunday 11:30 a.m.
7:00 p.m.
Confession is heard 1/2 hour before each Mass.

CONFESSION

Wednesday night, 10:30 p.m. in Aquinas Chapel
1/2 hour before each Mass, on Sunday
Communal Penance Services will be held throughout the school year in Aquinas Chapel. Notices will be posted.

SUNDAY MASS AT ST. PIUS CHURCH (Eaton Street)

Saturday 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
Sunday 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m.
12:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m.

CAMPUS MINISTERS

—James F. Quigley, O.P. (coordinator)
Slavin Center 116; Ext. 2216
Joseph Hall 4D; Ext. 2483

—Stuart McPhail, O.P.
Joseph Hall 3B; Ext. 2177

DAILY MASS IN AQUINAS CHAPEL
9:35 a.m. 10:35 a.m.
11:35 a.m. 4:30 p.m.
On Saturday, 11:35 a.m. only

—David Folsey, O.P.
Stephen Hall 303; Ext. 2157
McDermott 14; Ext. 2275

DAILY MASS AT ST. PIUS CHURCH (Eaton Street)

7:00 a.m., 7:45 a.m., 12:10 p.m.

—Hugh McBrien, O.P.
Guzman Hall A3; Ext. 2477

Chaplain Extends Greetings

Dear Students, Faculty, Staff:

I'd like to welcome you back to Providence College for another academic year. As you know there have been some changes in personnel while you were away. Father Walsh has moved to Washington, D.C. and I have been asked to serve as chaplain or campus minister. It's not an easy task to follow a man like Father Walsh but I'll do my best. Fathers McPhail, Folsey and McBrien will also be part of our campus ministry team.

The Chaplain's Office here at P.C. has only one purpose and that is to be of service to you. We're interested in your human growth, in your discovery of community, in your search for truth, and values, and God.

Bob Dylan said somewhere that the only difference between homes for the elderly and schools was that more people died in schools. I don't think that's true. There are all kinds of people and facilities here at P.C. who work hard at keeping us "alive". The campus ministers are among them. I hope that you will feel free to come in and see us at any time.

Sincerely,
Fr. Quigley, O.P.

'... we don't identify ourselves as do-gooders or problem-solvers or answer-men.'

Fr. Walsh. He was Chaplain at a very monumental moment in higher education with all kinds of things happening. There was such a moving and upheaval among the young people, among students — he did an incredible job — knowing how to handle it. He could approach any group, no matter how ideologically different it might be, and was respected by all.

COWL: The Chaplain's Office should in extent be socially active. In the past some articles have been published in the COWL. Do you plan to continue this and in what new ways?

Fr. Quigley: I guess we couldn't spell out in great detail some grand platform, but one of the purposes of the Chaplain's Office is to contribute in some way to, and the phrase is, "raising consciousness." By raising the consciousness of the problems that plague people both in this country and on a world-wide level. To make people aware of the things that inhibit growth and development. One of the direct ways we are going to continue operating is by recruiting volunteer personnel. People who having finished at PC will go out and make direct, concrete, and practical kinds of contributions to, in the phrase of Dr. Tom Dooley, "save just an inch of the dignity of man." An example of that would be the Jesuit Volunteer Corp. Five members of the '74 class are going to participate this year: one to Alaska, one to Omak, Washington to work with the Indians, one to St. Michael's Indian School in Arizona to work with retarded and physically disabled people, another to work at a desert school, and the fifth is unplaced. We would like to continue that kind of a program — long term service. Short term projects in the past have been students volunteering to do tutoring in the Chad Brown Project, the Tyler School, and so forth. We would like to bring in speakers, sponsor seminars which would be geared to making aware the value of human life. We would continue doing that through the Cowl, and whatever way people may suggest. The Volunteer program impresses me — it is quality people accomplishing, self-sacrificing and being generous.

COWL: How about transfer students on campus — what is your role in acclimating them?

Fr. Quigley: The campus ministry team is involved in the freshman orientation; as part of it, we are involved in meeting transfer students. I would think it is not the easiest thing in the world for a

student to come in as a transfer student because they are entering a situation which has already been established. For freshmen, at least, there is this much — no scene has been established; they are a group starting out together. I would hope that our Office could in any way and maybe in a host of ways be of service to transfer students either directing them to people or to other offices, giving information, making introductions, trying to ease in any way whatsoever that entry into a somewhat established community. We hope that transfer students in particular would drop by our Office or call any of us or in any way make use of the services that we could offer.

COWL: How about your office hours?

Fr. Quigley: There will be somebody in the Office usually from 8:30 in the morning to 4-4:30 in the afternoon. Our office is 116 Slavin Center. Room 115 will serve as a meeting place or as a room where people can come in and look over magazines or have a cup of coffee or wait or whatever. After these hours the chaplains will be available in their rooms.

COWL: Do you think the moral values of the students of your class have changed from the ones of the students today?

Fr. Quigley: Do you mean my class, 1960?

COWL: Right.

Fr. Quigley: No. I don't ever understand those kinds of comparisons. I can't remember how we were. I've great respect for the students at PC. I'm not prepared to say that the students at PC are different or better than any other school because then I'd have to go to those other schools — and I'm not interested at this point in doing that. I find our students to be most generous and sensitive people. I meet many, many, students and I talk with them. I get to know them. I'm saying that I know well a lot of students and I base my judgment on evidence. I think they are good, decent people who are looking for something worthwhile to center their lives around.

COWL: Is it difficult to communicate with people?

Fr. Quigley: I haven't found any difficulty. Most aren't afraid of me. When freshmen first come in, they are a little bit hesitant because I am a priest, because I am older, because I am a part of the whole scene they are entering. But that seems to break down fairly well after a while. At least, I try to work at breaking it down.

COWL: Would you describe the attitude of the students on this campus, insofar as activities and extra-curricular activities are concerned, as being surrounded with an aura of enthusiasm?

Fr. Quigley: Whenever I've become involved in a project or whenever I've needed help whether it be a social action project or simply a party, I haven't lacked in any way for enthusiastic workers. This year there were a number of collections, e.g., for the famine in Sub-Sahara countries and the response was terrific. There was a call to help the Carter Day Nursery by giving money. I wasn't involved but the girls at Aquinas Dorm sponsored a picnic for the kids at Carter Day. The Dillon Club sponsored that faculty-student basketball game. There was a faculty softball game and Variety Show, too. The Football Club consistently shows a great deal of dedication — the Cowl staff, as well. So I'd say from my own experience I've just run into a lot of people who were enthusiastic.

COWL: (comment) A lot of the enthusiasm at the college fluctuates between the classes. Whereas a lot of freshmen are enthusiastic, a lot of sophomores are not and the seniors are ...

Fr. Quigley: The Sophomore year is a tough year and yet it is a nice year. When Sophomores come back they feel very comfortable because there is someone behind them. The tough part is that they are starting to take subjects geared to their major and they run into some difficulty. There is the beginning, again, of the "career question." The Junior year is, I think, a great year; it's a fun year but toward the end of it that seriousness comes to the forefront again, e.g., questions concerning values of human relations, love, marriage, future, and of career. The Senior year is a lot of fun until that "moment of awakening" when it becomes somewhat sad — "Where did the four years go?" Also, a Senior can become panicky.

COWL: Do you find yourself doing much career counseling? Finding people turning to you for advice — if they are fit for or suited to a particular field, to a particular job choice?

Fr. Quigley: I would say that career is one of the most crucial questions in the minds of most students. It becomes at times, at moments throughout the college experience, a real agonizing and very difficult question that has all kinds of repercussions and overflows into every aspect of your life. It's a question that is likewise tied up with questions of values — what is important and what do I want to value and how then do I work at that throughout the rest of my life. I think that what happens at college is a reflection and a re-evaluation and a re-acceptance about a commitment to values and in that context a career decision is very difficult. Especially so, in an age when there are challenges to values. When I say all this, I am not an expert — I'm just giving impressions.

COWL: Since you can remember, have all the Chaplains of the school been of your order, the Dominican Order?

Fr. Quigley: Yes.

COWL: Has the college ever considered hiring a chaplain of another faith?

Fr. Quigley: Right now, Dr. Gibson, a Congregationalist Minister, is a member of the Religious Studies department. He and I are good friends; we work together for the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. Although he is not "officially" a chaplain here, he is a religious minister. It is difficult not to be a "chaplain." Rabbi Leeman is also a member of the Religious Studies department and e.g., he

has conducted Passover services here. Again, as a rabbi, it is difficult for him not to be "chaplain." In my mind there is a question that should be studied — what kind of religious service should be offered if there is a need, if there is a want for non-Catholic students at PC? It is something to be thought about.

COWL: What is the difference between a priest and a "chaplain"?

Fr. Quigley: In one sense, every priest at PC is a chaplain, simply by the fact of his priesthood. The Chaplain or the campus ministry team are those who have been officially designated by the administration to care for the needs and to service in a ministerial fashion the PC community. The job of chaplains does not exclude others from doing this type of work but it does give particular responsibility to those who are members of the campus ministry team.

COWL: Going back to your class, 1960: is there a greater need for the Chaplain's Office now, than there was then? Fr. Lennon, O.P., author of the booklet WHEN THE GIRLS COME, was impressed with the idea that moral values would change at PC with the arrival of the coeds on campus.

Fr. Quigley: First, I never read Fr. Lennon's booklet. Second, I stand on the position that I know a lot of the young adults that are here. I don't operate under any false illusions. I'm not utopian. I'm not escapist. But I believe we are talking about some very moral, great, and generous human beings. I'm talking about religious people here, 1974, at PC. They were here also in 1960.

COWL: What are your views on parietals?

Fr. Quigley: Parietals or visitation privileges to a male or female dorm by the men and coeds has worked out well. It started when I first arrived here and from

what I can observe, it's handled very well and it's a good thing.

COWL: The basic question is: should students be determining their own lifestyles or should someone else be dictating them to the students?

Fr. Quigley: I think everyone should determine their own lifestyles but "no man is an island unto himself." So it is my lifestyle and your lifestyle that is also going to be part of the community lifestyle. Somehow dialogue and discussion and sharing has to come about. I guess that is not a "yes" or "no" answer.

COWL: The Chaplain's Office is here to help others. Do you see yourself and the campus ministry team as "do-gooders"?

Fr. Quigley: I always react against do-gooders. Someone once suggested that if anyone is bent on helping you with your problems — run. So I don't think the Chaplain's Office is, or rather, we don't identify ourselves as do-gooders or problem-solvers or answer-men. The way we see it, we are adults, we are ministers here to promote a full and total human development of all the PC community. In particular, the students. To help in any way that we can — sometimes we will be able to provide information, sometimes it will be merely a question of listening or of support or of caring — without a lot of idle talk. That's what we see this as being all about. That includes, ultimately, being somehow instrumental in bringing people to God and God to people.

COWL: Do you have any further or closing comments you might like to add or end with, Fr. Quigley?

Fr. Quigley: I guess, only that, hopefully our team of Frs. McPhail, McBrien, Folsey and myself, by complementing each other, will be able to do a good job.

COWL: Thank you, Father.
Fr. Quigley: Thank you.

Chaplain's Corner (Con't.)

screaming and all that, and I was going through all the rituals I guess you're supposed to go through at times like that, when I began to see, of all things, my future going through my head. This may sound sort of strange to you, but I guess I didn't know where I was heading. I was all excited about coming up here to school, but that was really all. I really didn't know what I wanted to do. I mean, I said a whole lot of things about having a career and following my dad, stuff like that. But I didn't have a plan in my head. I didn't have the slightest idea what I wanted to do. I just wanted to get into the school, and once that happened, I didn't have anything else to shoot for. I'll tell you, at that airport I wanted more than anything else just to stay home. I was turning every which way inside. You know? You talk about not knowing where your head's at. That was me."

And so school began. There were a great bunch of people around, nice kids, pretty friendly. Then came the quarter and exams and grades and the call home. Marks were pretty bad. "I wanted to say something over the phone but I figured they'd yell or be hurt or worry... What gets me is other kids don't seem to work and still do okay. A few said the test was easy and that really kills me. I studied ten to fifteen hours for one exam. I never did that in high school but I still didn't do well. You know, it can get pretty lonely around here."

Lonely in the middle of a crowd! Some claim that pretty well sums up our age. Despite the crowds a lot of college students can get pretty lonely. It's due in part to a time in life. Young adulthood is a time when someone attempts to

put it all together, i.e., values, ideas, personality and career. But that is never an easy thing to do. It is especially difficult today. Students can become very sensitive and self-conscious. They can't feel at home or at ease or be themselves.

Perhaps the nature of the college experience itself produces loneliness. Very often the environment is one of competition. Marks can come to symbolize worth or value or success and so everyone competes. It's win or lose. If I don't get good marks, the teachers or parents or classmates or grad schools or employers question my worth. "Everyone always asks what you got on an exam. I hate that. I get mad and embarrassed, too. I always say that the test wasn't bad. That tests it. But I can't seem to work and that bugs me. I sit in the library every night. I open the book and in five minutes my mind is off somewhere. I always wanted to go to college but now I think maybe I ought to quit, go home and get a job. But what kind of job?"

Is there any antidote for loneliness and/or that feeling of isolation? I'd like to think so, at least in part. How? Perhaps the solution might be community. P. C. is supposed to be a community of people working for and with each other. No one here is supposed to be anonymous. Everyone is supposed to count, to be important. Priests, faculty, administrators, staff are here to promote the growth of every student. Students among themselves are supposed to support and encourage each other. Everybody is supposed to care. That's the theory. It's also the only way to live.

THE COWL

Providence, R. I.



Published each full week of school during the academic year by Providence College, River Avenue and Eaton Street, Providence, R.I. 02918. Second class postage paid at Providence, R.I. Printed by Ware River News, Church Street, Ware, Mass. 01082.

Subscription rate is \$4.00 per year.

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