



Illustration by Harry Witt

founding in 1808, are crumbling with age. And while serenity, peace, beautiful landscapes and recreational equipment exists in each of the four seminaries, so does a rigorous schedule of no dating, sacrifice, early rising and learning to live with many other men, personality clashes or not.

Like an eight-year venture of law or medical school, the seminary stresses intense concentration in one subject. As Jasnowski has learned: the priesthood "is a job which never ends. It is not something you wake up and go and do and then stop and come home. But rather, you are your job. You are a priest always."

The Rev. Robert Vasa serves as a priest in his first year at Cathedral of the Risen Christ. He went to Saint Thomas Seminary in Denver; and Holy Trinity in Dallas. He grew up on a Nebraska farm with four brothers and a sister.

At the seminary, he said, he liked the chance to talk with others who shared his beliefs.

who have an option to marry, the priest is forbidden to do so.

"This is an area of the priesthood that seems odd to many people," Jim Cooper said. "The sacrifice of giving up marriage and a family is a difficult commitment, but it is well worth it to us...to have no restrictions or obligations which would divide our attention."

While a seminarian has not taken the vow of celibacy, he cannot seek female companionship and is discouraged from dating when home on vacation. The seminary years are the time to find out if one can accept and endure this vow.

At Holy Trinity, seminarians are interviewed and constantly observed to determine which ones should be advised to leave and to encourage those who should stay. That is a difficult job, said Father Sheehan, because it means thinking of more than the man's desire to be a priest and thinking of the people he might serve.

Mike Houlihan, 23, from Omaha, had considered a law career. He was graduated from Archbishop Rummel High School and from UNL with a B.A. in history. In his second year at Mount St. Mary, he said he is enthusiastic about the intelligent and gifted people he meets. He told of a common attitude among the men interviewed from the four seminaries.

"I don't look more than a day ahead...I am open to what's going to happen."

Houlihan teaches a seventh-grade religion class in Gettysburg, 12 miles from the seminary.

St. Pius in Erlanger sits on top of a hill surrounded by 300 acres of green rolling hills, wooded areas and lakes. It is 20 minutes south of Cincinnati on I-75, but is tucked away from the interstate.

For recreation and entertainment, it has a weight machine, a print shop, student stores and gyms, courts and fields for almost every sport.

Steve Witulski, 22, is student body president at St. Pius. He went to Gretna public high school and was a UNL math major in actua-

arial science for two years. He is interested in elementary and special education.

His first impression of St. Pius:

"Here is a group of people who say they are living for a purpose and they're doing something about it."

Steve Vacha, 21, (Bob's brother) graduated from Lincoln Pius X High School and is in his fourth year of study at St. Pius.

He said "People have forgotten the need for a savior."

Michael Jackels, 22, from Bellevue High School, majored in Latin American Studies for two years at UNL, and had planned foreign service work in Central America or the Peace Corps. He said he sees the church as a sign of contradiction to the norms of society, perhaps rightly so.

Seminary life—some say there is no comparison with university life. The small, close-knit community and daily worship contrast with UNL's environment of 22,000 students and secular atmosphere.

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Example of a seminarian's schedule

Sunday	M/W	T/Th/Fri
8:30/Chapel/Mass	6:20 morning prayers and meditation	Same as M/W except morning Mass and either music practice or a conference or spiritual reading at 5 p.m.
10:30 brunch	7 breakfast	
free until	8 to 3 classes,	
5:30 supper	lunch, between 11 and 1	Saturday
free until	3 recreation	7:25 morning prayer
10 p.m.	5/chapel/mass	8:30 breakfast
Benediction	6 supper	9:15 to 11:30 work order
11 p.m.	7:30 night prayer	noon lunch
Grand Silence	11 Grand Silence	free until 11 p.m.

Theology students are free to go out until 10 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday and one other night a week until 11 p.m. Other times, permission is easily obtainable.

"The seminary is not a place. It is a group of men who have come together who are headed in the same direction," he said.

While the seminary can have its lonely, depressing and spiritually "down" days, Vasa said he never considered leaving. The continuing conversations with friends kept him going, he said. However, in the seminary, there is a tendency to form cliques, and for one to isolate oneself. It should teach a man to be willing to "waste" time with people, he said. "Spending" time implies expecting something in return.

The seminarians said they want to become closer to Jesus Christ and to spread the mystery of his sacrifice and death. But, they said, the temptations are daily.

The thought of a future life of celibacy, of not being married, is a constant reminder of the sacrifice in choosing to be a Catholic priest. Unlike other Christian ministers