

## ?? Formation or Training ??

In today's disheveled catholic religious environment, the largest majority of **CATHOLIC PEOPLE** have forgotten how to act as Catholics! Proper Catholic decorum – Catholic reverence for the sacred – is a thing of the past! This sadness is found also among priests, monks, and nuns. The younger have never known true Catholic Experience. Not only is this true with the New Order Catholics – in large measure it is also true among Traditional Catholics. Every effort must be made to bring back holiness into **CATHOLICITY!**

Long, long ago, young men and women – in seminaries; in monasteries; in convents – were placed under the kindly, the dedicated, the consecrated, the firm guidance of older experienced men and women who had been tried and purified in their own vocations. In those golden days, candidates were **FORMED** and not **TRAINED!** The difference between formation and training is enormous. The excellent example and inspiration given by our forefathers in religion produced the great leaders of our once Holy, Catholic, Apostolic and One Catholic Church of happier and more stable days. Usually the young candidates were taught and formed in their own institutes. INBREEDING? NO! INDEED! No – because trustworthy, good and holy bishops and religious superiors were quite conscientious in fulfilling their duties of good supervision and administration.

As the **MODERN** age began to make its appearance, and sophisticated learning techniques became the order of the day, religious superiors gradually began to give in to the call and renown of large universities. Candidates were sent away to such places – unsupervised – and were allowed, even, to go to the schools of their own choosing. They traveled to schools where they could be **TRAINED** in the skills they themselves considered useful to their “religious career” or their “ministerial profession”. The advice of their superiors was spurned and the importance of ascetical formation was completely disregarded. Asceticism became a mental sickness which needed psychiatric attention!

Horses and dogs are trained. Plumbers, carpenters, and bricklayers are trained. Men and women who have been called by God to serve Him in Holy Religion are not **TRAINED** – **THEY ARE FORMED** – they are formed in the holiness of life called for by their high calling. Certainly, they must be taught those subjects needed by their calling. Their **Souls** have to be transformed – transformed in such a way that the image of God is reflected in them. **NO AMOUNT** of training can bring about such a transformation in the soul who has answered the call of God!

In a very short time – **IMPERCEPTIBLY** – the holiness of the religious life was displaced by the scholarliness of career priests, monks, and nuns who made it their business to be religious and psychological specialists. **THE SCHOLARLY** priests – and bishops – have proceeded in recent years to launch a never ending program of “**RENEWAL**”. With political figures they have struggled to climb the golden ladder which leads to high church positions. Most of those who did not willingly conform to the new program were sent (by force at times) to psychiatrists or were condemned to a life of bitter embarrassment and an isolated martyrdom!

(Concluded on page 13)