Background

- Clinical/research interests
  - Issues related to clergy sexual offense
  - Celibacy formation/human sexuality
  - Perseverance in religious life & priesthood

Background

- Current work
  - Teaching at seminary/school of theology
  - Assistant Formation Director for Archabbey
  - Vocation Director for Monastery
  - Saint Luke Institute Fellow in Human Formation
Goals for Part Three

- A quick review of the model of Sexual Identity
- Building on the model to better understand:
  - Integrity of Sexual Identity
  - What we mean by Sexual Integration
- Complicating Factors
- Implications for Formation and Screening

Review: Celibacy as a Lived Experience

- Motives for celibacy
- Theologies of celibacy
- Sexual identity
- Skills for living the celibate life
- Limitations for living the celibate life
Sexual Identity =
- Sex (biologically determined) +
- Gender (cultural, psychological sense) +
- Sexual Orientation +
- History of Sexual Experiences +
- Attitudes & Values about Sexuality

Self-Knowledge        Self-Acceptance       Self-Gift

Goal: Integrity within Sexual Identity
Integrity
- Integrity: wholeness; soundness; consistency throughout
- When the various dimensions of Sexual Identity are working together

Sexual Identity =
- Sex +
- Gender +
- Sexual Orientation +
- History of Sexual Experiences +
- Attitudes & Values about Sexuality

Sexual Identity Disorder

Internal Dissonance
Sexual Identity =

- Sex +
- Gender +
- Sexual Orientation +
- History of Sexual Experiences +
- Attitudes & Values about Sexuality

Internal Dissonance

Integrity

- Problems arise when dimensions are in conflict with one another
  - Creates a sense of internal dissonance
  - May result in: compartmentalization, repression, denial, loss of credibility
  - These defenses take energy to maintain
  - May affect our openness to formation
  - May affect our community life and/or service to others

Sexual Integration

- When our sexuality is receiving the amount of time, attention and energy it requires – not a whole lot more or less.
- When our sexuality is understood as an important and defining feature of who we are – but not the only defining feature.
- A developmental perspective . . .
Sexual Integration: A Developmental Perspective

Pre-pubescence to Adolescence:
- Puberty & biological changes
- Societal expectations

Adolescence to Adulthood:
- Relationship Experience / Dating
- Discovering what is meaningful in relationships
Question: What is sexual integration?

Question: Where should someone be at the time of entering seminary / religious life?

Question: Where should someone be at the time of ordination / final vows?
Question: How might this process be complicated for someone: 
(a) with a history of sexual abuse; (b) with a different sexual orientation; 
(c) who grew up with harsh, negative attitudes about sexuality?

Implications for Motives for Celibacy

• Look for an ability to talk about oneself as a sexual person
• Ask about dating experience / relationship experience
• Look for extremes in sexual experience
• Consider these in assessing:
  • integration of sexuality
  • motives for celibacy
• Good screening can assist with setting initial goals for formation along these lines.
Implications for Formation

- Goals: Integrity & Integration
- Formation is likely to vary some depending on level of integration
- Integrity & Integration have clear implications for evaluating one’s motives for celibacy
- “Freedom” in choosing a life of celibacy: Does the individual have adequate self-knowledge and self-acceptance
- Sexual & emotional underdevelopment a risk factor for abuse.

Systems of Delivery: Who does this work?

- Begins in Screening
- Continues in spiritual direction, individual meetings with formation director, counseling
- Courses in human development, workshops, seminars
- Mental health professionals are often well suited to teach the developmental aspects of sexual & emotional maturity.
- Treatment centers for clergy & religious are a good resource
- Books and articles can also be helpful

Suggested Reading

Living Celibacy Series, Part Four

“Affective Maturity and Emotional Intelligence”

Tuesday, December 10
1:00 p.m. EDT

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