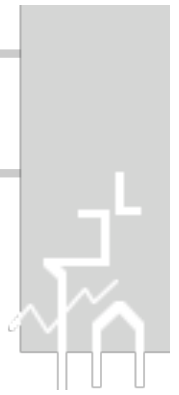


DIFFICULT DYNAMICS IN PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS



A professional relationship includes
a covenant between a professional and a faith community
to foster spiritual growth of the community members

From those the professional serves:

Projection:

the inability to own one's positive or negative personality traits which then get "projected" onto the other person
(the root of hero worship and racism)

Transference:

the "transfer" of unresolved issues, feelings and attitudes with another person (a parent, sibling, or other authority figure) into the current relationship

Both these dynamics

- ask for more than "professional" concern
- point to needs that can be fulfilled by spiritual growth
- require effective role modeling of appropriate boundaries

From the professional:

Projection

Countertransference:

"transference" from the professional toward the other

Both these dynamics

- are illusory emotional expectations
- ask the other person(s) to satisfy the *professional's* romantic, and/or personal needs
- are unethical if acted upon

DYNAMIC OF NON-PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS

A personal relationship
tries to meet the needs of *both* individuals and
recognizes the natural, normal, unavoidable desire for affection and intimacy in physical, emotional and
spiritual ways.

(As one clergy said, "a friend is a very rare person indeed")