

John

This is a fine effort - it is well written and well written between the lines - It is your choice: I will bless you good luck, God bless

COVENANT OF JAMES FOLEY APRIL 28, 2000

What brought me to Southdown:

The precise reason I came to Southdown is because of an allegation of sexual misconduct brought against me by a former parishioner who said that the abuse took place when he was fourteen years of age thus constituting misbehavior against a minor. I readily agree to part of his allegation although I did not touch him in the way he said I did or say some of things of which I have been accused. As I reflect on my actions I see that they were unprofessional and inappropriate, something for which I am sincerely sorry, feel very embarrassed and deeply regret any adverse or negative effects that may have been incurred as a result of my unprofessionalism. To be more succinct I have to say that naiveté, stupidity, unaddressed personal needs of intimacy and arrested psycho-sexual development are the radical reasons for my inappropriate actions and my need to seek the care and treatment offered at Southdown.

Expanded awareness and insights:

For a few years now I have been aware that there was something wrong with my thinking and I often asked God for help in this regard. I never imagined that He would answer my prayers by bringing me to Southdown. Nevertheless I knew that there was a problem with the way I approached sexuality, intimacy, and authority; my relationship with my father; my obesity (in that I lost weight several times and regained it after each loss); my need to be seen (a consequence of grandiosity brought on by a narcissistic personality); and my fear of being hurt and ridiculed.

In gaining knowledge and insight into these disorders I can understand what caused me to act the way I did throughout most of my adult life. I count myself lucky for having come to Southdown. I now have a heightened awareness of myself and the reasons behind my actions and personal deportment. I am cognizant of the fact that the thoughts that have troubled me in the past do not necessarily have to be negative in their consequences but can act positively by heightening my awareness of them so that I can recognize what is happening and decide on my actions according to the healthy insights I have gained from my treatment.

Supports I will need:

God in his goodness brought me to Southdown and has given me a whole new outlook on life. I pray that he will continue to nourish me along the way after my departure. Before I engage in any active ministry I would like to live in a praying community for six months to a year; while there I feel that it would be helpful for me to continue with professional psychotherapy, live the twelve-step way of life and reach out to specific persons who will agree to be honest with me pertinent to my psychological makeup. Since fear of being hurt has lead me to avoid intimacy it will be necessary for me to continue and constantly keep in repair intimate and lasting relationships with friends especially those I have made while at Southdown.

As part of my ongoing therapy and in consideration of relapse prevention I have to say that I sincerely desire to reduce my weight to a healthy level and to maintain this loss. For me losing weight is easy, maintaining the loss is difficult. I hope, with my therapist, to develop a healthy life

style by creating an adequate food and exercise program and by examining the feelings that cause me to overeat, namely: loneliness, anger, my need to be seen, anxiety that comes from the way I perceive others seeing me, my care for others (I tend to spoil people) and impatience (I seem to want things to happen right away).

*My desire to contribute to the Kingdom:*

God has cast my nets in many directions throughout my twenty-two years of ministry. It seems that I am now going in another one. I do not know with what or if any responsibilities the Church will entrust me, but I do know that I am a much healthier person now and can make different and perhaps increased contributions to the Kingdom. I need not be a pastor or a vicar or hold any authority in the Church, but because of my story, my new attitude, my expanded insights and the pain and anguish I have recently suffered I know that I could be used to touch the minds and hearts of others, especially those who are still suffering and perhaps be instrumental in leading them to a healthier and happier way of life.