

FREE TO CHOOSE: A NEW PERSPECTIVE  
ON INTERNATIONAL CANDIDATES FOR  
RELIGIOUS LIFE AND ORDINATION

*Fr. Peter A. Marshall, MSW, D.Min.*

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FREEDOM IS A CANONICAL  
REQUIREMENT FOR ORDINATION OR  
ENTRANCE INTO RELIGIOUS LIFE




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CANON 1026: "A PERSON MUST POSSESS DUE  
FREEDOM IN ORDER TO BE ORDAINED. IT IS  
ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN TO FORCE ANYONE IN ANY  
WAY OR FOR ANY REASON TO RECEIVE ORDERS..."




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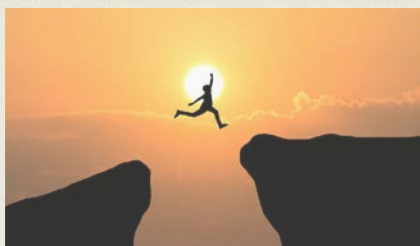
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CANON 656: "FOR THE VALIDITY OF TEMPORARY PROFESSION IT IS REQUIRED THAT: ...THE PROFESSION IS EXPRESSED AND MADE WITHOUT FORCE, GRAVE FEAR, OR MALICE."

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FREEDOM IS A REQUIREMENT  
FOR MORAL ACTION




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FREEDOM IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT  
OF BOTH SIN AND THE LIFE OF  
GRACE.

- "...the more docile we are to the promptings of grace, the more we grow in inner freedom and confidence during trials...By the working of grace the Holy Spirit educates us in spiritual freedom in order to make us free collaborators in his work in the Church and in the world." (CCC, 1742)




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## OBSTACLES TO FREEDOM IN THE INTERNATIONAL CANDIDATE:



- Desire to live the “American Dream”
- Hope to secure “regular” immigration status
- Pressure to financially support a family (diocesan priest)
- Desires of one who has lived in a culture that values life in the United States

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## OBSTACLES TO FREEDOM IN THE INTERNATIONAL CANDIDATE:



- Desire to live the “American Dream”
- Hope to secure “regular” immigration status
- Pressure to financially support a family (diocesan priest)
- Perceived ease of ordination/entrance into religious life in United States

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## WHAT DOES FREEDOM LOOK LIKE?

- “Freedom is the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act...Human freedom is a force for growth and maturity in truth and goodness; it attains its perfection when directed toward God, our beatitude.” (CCC, 1731)




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## FREEDOM: A SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE



- “Humans are created to praise, reverence, and serve God our Lord, and by this means to save their souls” (Ignatius, P&F)

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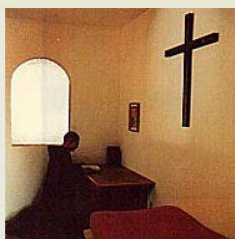
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## FREEDOM: A SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE



- “For this it is necessary to make ourselves indifferent to all created things.” (Ignatius, P&F)

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## INDIFFERENCE VS. DISORDERED ATTACHMENTS



- Indifference is the appropriate use of God’s gifts (family, food, money, etc) to further our salvation—to lead us to freedom.

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## INDIFFERENCE VS. DISORDERED ATTACHMENTS



- Disordered Attachments turn God’s gifts into idols—they lead us out of freedom and into bondage

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## WAYS TO CHECK FOR FREEDOM:

- Help me understand why you want to live and serve in the United States, rather than at home?
- What advantages do you see to being a priest/member of a religious order in the US rather than in your home community?
- Do you feel able or willing to return home, or do you feel that if not ordained/solemnly professed you would want to stay in the United States?




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