## Saints and sinners: The Sixth commandment means?

Thou shalt not commit adultery. (Exodus Fines, whippings and imprisonment were used 20:14 and Deuteronomy 5:18) "What does this mean?

"We should lead a chaste and decent life in word and deed, and each love and honor his spouse." (Numberings and definitions are from Martin Luther's Small Catechism)

Most societies throughout history have had laws and customs to deal with sexual intercourse by a married person with someone other than his or her spouse.

In not all societies, however, has adultery been treated as a crime as it was under Mosaic Law. English common law held that only the woman was to blame in an act of adultery but it was not a crime, only a moral wrongdoing.

to curtail adultery in Puritan colonies. Statutes provided for the death penalty but it was rarely inflicted. Islamic law allowed a man to kill his wife if she were caught in the act of adultery. Mere suspicion that his wife had been unfaithful was grounds for a Muslim husband to divorce his wife.

At the other end of the spectrum, some societies have even sanctioned adultery. In cer- nation and culture. Adulterers, therefore, retain Eskimo groups, a husband may lend his ceived the death penalty. wife to a visitor. But if the wife takes her own initiative to do so, her husband could punish who is known as "the father of Situation Ethboth her and her partner. Ancient Jews con- ics," added the word "ordinarily" to this comsidered adultery to be a threat to family sta- mandment, as he did to others. Thus, in he had lusted after a woman. bility, which was a keystone of the Jewish Fletcher's version, it would read, "Thou shalt



Rev. Joseph Fletcher, an Episcopal minister

not commit adultery — ordinarily." In this view, application even further. He said we should lead there may be some situations where adultery is acceptable, or, at least, excusable. Modern society, by and large, appears willing to live with this interpretation, which is reinforced by another dictum of Situation Ethics: "Monogamy is against human nature."

Jesus' knowledge of human nature, however, led him not to soften the demands of this commandment, as the followers of Situation Ethics have done, but to broaden its application to include those who "commit adultery in the heart." It was this that brought forth President Carter's confession that there had been occasions when

Martin Luther extended this commandment's

a "chaste and decent life and each love and honor his spouse."

Jack Lemmon, in "The Apartment," explains why he takes his shirts to Andre's French laundry. He says it is because he never has to tell Andre he loves him when he picks up his shirts

It is possible that one of the reasons marriages fail - or at least fail to be what they might be — is that spouses have forgotten to say, "I love you." Or, as in the case of Lemmon, it has become a chore. It may not be the main cause of husbands or wives wandering off the marital range, but it could be a contributing cause.

Try saying "I love you" more often to your spouse.

## Ex-priest who was abuse victim has role as Catholic Church tries to reform

## By Melanie Coffee

Assocated Press Writer CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Bland said he was molested by a Roman Catholic priest as a child, but his love for the church remained and he later became a clergyman.

He joined a religious order and served for seven years until he told church officials what had been done to him years before. Their response – disbelieving and impassive, he said sparked his decision to leave the priest-100d

Bland now finds himself in a unique position to change how Catholic leaders handle allegations of abuse: He is the sole molestation victim on the National Review Board, a lay panel U.S. bishops formed this year to monitor how dioceses discipline accused clergy. "I felt this was a different time in the

church, and the church was looking to truly reform and I wanted to be part of that," Bland said.

Many other victim advocates had viduals who have done great things and hoped to join the 13-member board, some other individuals who have done and some questioned whether Bland was the right choice. A counselor, Bland works for the Archdiocese of Chicago helping other abuse victims. Susan Archibald, president of the

victim advocacy group The Linkup, wondered whether a diocesan emplovee would challenge the system. She said Bland was "a hand-picked victim by the bishops."

David Clohessy, national director of the Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests, called Bland "a good man in a tough spot."

"I think that Michael must feel some pretty awesome responsibility to represent the thousands and thousands of survivors who have seemingly very, very little voice in the decision-making of our church leaders," Clohessy said. But Bland welcomes the challenge. He wants to show that victims can heal. "I realize there's some good indi-

horrible things," Bland said.

Bland grew up in St. Joseph's Church in Carteret, N.J., where the priest he said molested him, the Rev. John Huels, was associate pastor.

Bland said he considered Huels a "role model" before the clergyman began abusing him, leaving Bland confused and afraid.

Still, he felt called to become a priest, motivated partly by a desire to be a better clergyman than Huels.

Bland was ordained in 1987 and joined the Servites, a Chicago-based religious order. In 1994, he told church officials that Huels had sexually abused him about 20 years earlier.

Bland's attempt to hold Huels accountable was complicated by Huel's rank: At that time, Huels was a provincial leader of Bland's religious order and a teacher at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Bland's superiors asked him not to part time in the Chicago Archdiocese Associated Press. tell his fellow priests or his family, then as a counselor to victims. asked Bland to meet with their attorneys and reconcile with Huels since both were priests. Bland felt isolated.

"It was difficult for everyone," Bland said. "In the community they not only had the victim, but the perpetrator."

Some of the clergymen who did know tried to be supportive.

"All I told him is that I'll stand by you, I'll be with you," said the Rev. Gus Kulbis, who served in the order with Bland. "It was the only thing I could think of saying.'

But Bland felt his order considered him a "loose cannon" and he felt he had to leave.

"I felt some people didn't know how to deal with me or talk with me," Bland said. "I think they responded to the best of their ability - I guess I had hoped for more."

Bland went on to earn a doctorate in clinical psychology and began working

ministry. After Bland made his accusation, Huels resigned his position in the Servite order and left the Chicago school. Still, he continued teaching.

Then in June, Bland was among the victims the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops invited to speak at their meeting in Dallas where they drafted a national policy on handling guilty priests. In an emotional address, Bland spoke of the devastation of abuse and decried that his perpetrator, who he did not name, continued to teach.

But Bland's talk soon led to the discovery that Huels was scheduled to teach that summer at Saint Paul's University in Ottawa, Canada. The accused clergyman took a medical leave from the school and no longer functions as a church," Bland said, "and is very compriest, Servite provincial Michael Guimon said.

Huels did not return calls from The

Bland's talk came at the height of the

Huels eventually did leave public molestation scandals, which erupted in January when Boston Cardinal Bernard Law acknowledged that he knowingly reassigned a priest who had been accused of abuse. The crisis quickly spread to other dioceses.

> The review board has gained importance since the bishops voted last week to revise their abuse policy to meet Vatican demands that they balance fairness to priests with help for victims.

> The policy does not impose sanctions on bishops who fail to comply, so the review board's annual evaluation and its work with the bishops' newly created Office for Child and Youth Protection will be among the few means to enforce the plan.

> "Everyone (on the panel) loves the mitted to prevention of child sexual abuse and the healing of those affected."



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