

VOVETE

VOVETE: THESE WORDS RING IN YOUR EARS DURING THE WEEKS THAT PRECEDE YOUR RENOVATION. VOVETE: IS THE MAIN THOUGHT OF YOUR MIND, WHEN YOU RETIRE FOR THE DAILY MEDITATION, SPIRITUAL READING AND EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE. VOVETE, NAMELY, FREELY AND DELIBERATELY ^B ~~R~~IND YOURSELVES UNDER PAIN OF SIN TO DO SOMETHING MORE PLEASING TO GOD THAN ITS OPPOSITE. VOVETE, NAMELY, BRING ALL YOUR ACTS UNDER THE SUPERVISION AND COMMAND OF THE HIGHEST MORAL VIRTUE, WHICH IS RELIGION.

IN THIS MEDITATION LET US REFLECT ON THE IDEA OF VOVETE AND CONSIDER WHO VOWS, TO WHOM DO WE VOW, WHAT DO WE VOW; QUIS, CUI, QUID.

I QUIS? WHO? IN THE VOWS, I AM ONE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONTRACT: FREELY, AFTER DUE DELIBERATION, WITH FULL CONSENT, I VOW, I ASSUME A NEW OBLIGATION AND DEPRIVE MYSELF OF RIGHTS WHICH, BEFORE THE VOWS, I COULD EXERCISE. NEITHER RELATIVES, NOR FRIENDS VOW FOR ME: THE OBLIGATION, CREATED BY THE VOWS, DEVOLVES UPON ME ALONE: CONSEQUENTLY MY FULFILMENT OF THE PROMISE CAN BE NOWISE AFFECTED BY THE CONDUCT OF MEN TOWARDS ME. IT WOULD BE SENSELESS FOR ME TO PLEAD THE ~~W~~ ^RONG-DOING OF MY SUPERIOR, OR OF MY EQUAL, OR OF ANY ONE ELSE, OR MY TARDINESS IN MY ACADEMIC STUDIES, OR MY INABILITY TO TEACH, OR MY INCOMPREHENSION OF THE CHARACTER OF OTHERS, OR THE SYSTEMATIC FAILURE OF MY STUDENTS, AS IF ALL THAT COULD RELEASE ME FROM MY PROMISE TO GOD. THE SAME DAY AND HOUR YOU PRONOUNCED YOUR