

Richard, my brother
(A page from René's life story)

Richard is a wonderful, intelligent, non-judgmental, loving, loyal, considerate, solicitous brother, who reached out to me during the darkest moments of my medical problems. He had the difficult tasks to notify me when a death occurred in the family, i.e., our two brothers, Normand and Bob, our mother and our cousins, Dora and Rosanna. He also visited when I was paralyzed by a stroke. As usual, in those difficult times, Richard was very supportive.

I will let him tell the story of his own life, but if I had to choose between his struggles and sufferings and mine, I would not hesitate to choose my own. In addition, the cost of the relationship between my mother and Richard, emotionally speaking, was extremely difficult. If I were told by God to choose a brother, without hesitation I would choose Richard. I love him unconditionally.

Obviously, Richard and I were raised by the same parents. At the age of 14, and for the next six years, we studied in a Catholic Seminary, high school and college 300 miles away from home in Bucksport and Bar Harbor, Maine, returning home for the Christmas and summer vacations. Subsequently we both attended a Catholic Novitiate for one year in Colebrook, NH and also attended undergraduate and graduate studies in theology in Natick, MA at the Oblate Major Seminary and College, accredited by the Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Richard studied six years and became an Oblate of Mary Immaculate Catholic priest, and I studied five years and decided to leave the seminary a week before my

perpetual vows. Richard was ordained a priest in 1959. Normand was the deacon, and I was sub-deacon at his first high mass.

Richard became a Retreat Master in much demand, and also became Assistant and then Associate Professor of Religions Studies at Emmanuel College in Boston, MA. He did doctoral studies at Boston University and received his Doctorate in Systematic Theology in 1975. He was from time to time Chairman of the Department of Religion at Emmanuel College and promoted to Professor.

Richard is at present retired. He is Professor Emeritus at Emmanuel College. He has written fifteen religious articles in professional publications, published by Temple University, Ottawa University, Montclair University, *National Catholic Reporter*, *Worship*, *Theological Studies*, *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, *Église et Théologie*, *Currents in Theology*, and *Mission*.

Richard also is a specialist in the theological/philosophical studies of Simone Weil, a Jewish French woman who converted to Catholicism. In addition, Richard is a specialist in one of the most controversial, revolutionary and liberal Catholic theologians of the past century, Yves Congar, who was a French Dominican priest. He accepted the cardinal's hat during the final days of his life, suffering from multiple sclerosis.

Richard resides with his friend, Roger, in Wilmington, MA. They own their home and have a wonderful life together. Roger is a scientist, an inventor and writer. He has a B.A. in Engineering from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, a Master's degree in Engineering from M.I.T, and a Doctorate in Physics from Harvard. Roger is a loyal, brilliant, non-pedantic man, who is non-judgmental with a great sense of humor and caring for people.

Richard and I have visited each other many times, and I enjoy his company and bright discussions. He is also a superb chef.