

The Texture of Your World **A Reflection Paper**

General Instruction

The aim of this exercise is for you to begin the process of defining the social, cultural, ecclesiastical, and relational world in which you live and work. Take five to ten pages to answer the following questions:

Your Personal Setting

1. Describe briefly your family of origin: who were your father and mother? what sort of work did they do? who were your siblings? the important relatives?
2. Describe briefly your childhood: where did you grow up? what was your neighborhood like? Who were your friends? What groups—formal and informal—were you a part of?
3. Describe briefly your educational experience: where did you go to high school? college? seminary? graduate school? what is your feeling about your educational experience?
4. Describe briefly your career: where have you worked? in what fields?
5. Describe briefly your present family: who are your spouse and children (if any)? what are their ages and interests? what are your interests? what are your key relationships?
6. Describe briefly your spiritual pilgrimage: what was the nature of your childhood religious experience? how did you come to faith? what were some of the key events in your religious pilgrimage? (Omit if you have already completed *Spiritual Autobiography*.)
7. Describe briefly your goals: for yourself? your church? your career?

The Setting in which You Live and Work

1. Describe the community in which you live, in terms of its size, character, ethnic mix, socio-economic nature, religious life, sub-cultures, preferences, special characteristics, etc.
2. Describe the church or ministry in which you serve. How does it fit into your community? How is it perceived? How do these perceptions fit with the realities of the church? What is the perception your church has of the community and its relationship to it?
3. Describe the people who attend your church. From what part(s) of the community do they come? List the top three outside pressures faced by your people. List the three things that give them the most pleasure. List the three deepest personal needs of your people.