The Schizophrenic Priest

An Allegorical Tale

By

Anthony J. Fejfar, B.A., J.D., Esq., Coif

Father Liam Brown was a Roman Catholic Priest in the Diocese of Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania.   Father Brown had been a Priest for about 5 years, but it was time for him
to make a move.   He simply could no longer believe in Obedience to the Archbishop and
he could no longer believe in Papal Infallibility.   So, Father Brown contacted the local
Episcopalian Bishop and decided to switch religions and become an Episcopalian
Protestant Priest.   First, however, Father Brown told Roman Catholic Archbishop
Richard Lee about his decision.   Then, it happened.

The day after Father Brown told Archbishop Lee about his decision, two EMS
medical workers came to the door of the Parish Rectory where Father Brown lived and
told Father Brown that he, Father Brown had been involuntarily committed to a
psychiatric ward for schizophrenia.   Father Brown was hauled away and put on the
psychiatric ward.

On his second day on the Ward, Father Brown met with Doug Gray, the
psychiatrist.   Father Brown asked why he had been involuntarily committed and why he
had been diagnosed with schizophrenia.   Dr. Gray replied that he, Father Brown had
been diagnosed with schizophrenia for having the delusion that he was an Episcopalian
Protestant Priest.   Father Brown insisted that he had made an adult, mature decision to

become an Episcopalian Priest and that it was his right to do so under Freedom of Religion.

Dr. Gray replied that he, Dr. Gray takes the position that mental health patients have no constitutional rights since they are mentally incompetent.   Thus, Dr. Gray told Father Brown that he, Father Brown had no right of religious freedom.

After 6 months on the Ward, and having been doped up on Haldol for delusional psychosis, Father Brown decided that he was really a Roman Catholic Priest after all, and was allowed to go home to the parish rectory.