

He's 'Really Just A Person'

Continued From Second Front
 ternal changes have been
 made.

Christians identify religion
 with external trappings rather
 than internal beliefs.

took graduate study in psy-
 chology.

This renewal would be the
 result of philosophic shifts dur-
 ing the last 15 to 20 years, he
 said.

HIS RESEARCH led him to
 education and the question of
 releasing human potentiality.

"The question of what holds
 back human gifts and talents
 began to interest me," he
 said.

His own thinking has been
 greatly influenced by the
 Swiss psychologist Piaget and
 the latter's work in education
 on human growth and develop-
 ment.

Describing his work "as a
 scientific way of looking at the
 breakdown of the moral fiber
 of the country," he concluded,
 as he said many moral scien-
 tists do, that many people op-
 erate on "the lower levels of
 life without going beyond to
 the internalization of princi-
 ple."

As a result of his doctoral
 work at Catholic University
 (after his hospitalization for
 arthritis in 1960), Father
 Dwyer said he realized many

He entered the Trappist or-
 der in 1955 and was ordained
 in 1961. He later spent time in
 mission work in South Ameri-
 ca before returning to become
 involved in several administra-
 tive positions.

"This varied life has given
 me something to contribute, I
 believe," he said.

"I'VE BEEN on both sides
 which perhaps give me an ad-
 vantage in understanding the
 young and old," he continued.

While he enjoys his universi-
 ty teaching, he said he misses
 "the fellowship of the religious
 life."

But his future depends on
 his Trappist superiors and the
 doctors. Whether he will re-
 turn to his abbey is "an open
 question, and I guess it's real-
 ly a medical question."

Many people's lives are con-
 trolled by external factors and
 they are not able to penetrate
 these elements and gain a bet-
 ter understanding of life, he
 said.

At the same time, a tremen-
 dous development and shift in
 philosophy have caused a
 greater awareness for some
 and led to the challenging of
 previously authentic view-
 points.

As an example of the deep
 changes in many areas of life
 which have come about, per-
 haps unrealized by many, he
 said, "I lived a life of a
 Trappist monk 15 years ago
 that they don't lead now."

HE PRAISES the youth of
 the country for being able to
 better understand the changes
 that have occurred.

As a result, "What I see to-
 day as necessary is to build
 bridges of understanding be-
 tween young and old," he
 said, adding that that is what
 much of his work is all about.

He cited his unique back-
 ground as helping him prepare
 for his current work.

In the late 1940s he spent
 four years in the Navy sub-
 marine service. Later he
 worked in Boston and New
 York as a social worker and

Teaches At UNCC

The Monk, Professor 'Really Just A Person'

By WARREN BARNARD
 News Staff Writer

At a glance Dr. Vincent
 Dwyer looks and talks as you
 would expect any college pro-
 fessor would.

Well-mannered and quiet,
 the University of North Caroli-
 na at Charlotte assistant pro-
 fessor of education teaches
 about 135 UNCC students such
 subjects as "The Philosophy of

Education" and "The Facilita-
 tion of Meaning."

BUT, HE also has another
 role in life and one he consid-
 ers even more important.

He is the Rev. Vincent
 Dwyer, a Trappist monk on a
 medical leave of absence from
 a Massachusetts monastery.
 Still, he manages to blend

People . . .

both lives together and gain
 acceptance from his students
 and colleagues.

He offers an explanation for
 his success in both the educa-
 tion field and the religious
 life.

"I think the thing that
 comes across the most in my
 work is that I'm really just a
 person," says the 43-year-old
 Roman Catholic priest.

He thinks his position helped
 his students better understand
 the Catholic Church.

"THEY SEE me in this
 realm and realize that I can
 be relevant."

How a Trappist monk with
 experience in several areas
 came to be a college professor
 in a state-supported public
 school is "just a combination
 of circumstances," Father
 Dwyer says.

Stressing that he is still a

priest, although he does not
 function in the Diocese of Ra-
 leigh in a public way, he said
 an arthritic condition in 1965
 ruled out his continuing to live
 the strict Trappist regime.

He said his superiors decid-
 ed three years ago to allow
 him to accept an offer from
 Dr. John Bryant, dean of the
 UNCC College of Human De-
 velopment and Learning, to
 join his staff "because of the
 possibility of feedback to the
 church" on education and oth-
 er subjects.

During the week he is at the
 university. On weekends he
 reverts to his priestly role and
 travels throughout the country
 as a consultant for various re-
 ligious orders and bishops.

His major work is in "spiritu-
 ality," which he says is the
 great crisis for the Catholic
 Church today.

HE EXPLAINED that Vati-
 can II led to many changes
 externally in the church, al-
 though it also said the interior
 man required attention as well.
 Now priests around the

country are beginning to be-
 come "deeply interested in the
 internals" and the need for
 "purification and a return to
 the spirit of the Gospels."

He sees the Catholic Church
 on the verge of a renewal of
 spiritual life, now that the ex-

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REV. VINCENT DWYER
 . . . Monk And Professor

Vote for All-Jersey Milk. Be a
 winner every time. Hunter Jer-
 sey Farms.
 Adv.