

About Father Mack and this month's "Letter from the User Group Fringe":

Taking for granted the extremely astute nature of our readership, we expect an influx of messages on Nautilus Link asking us what regular commentator Father Mack might have to say on this issue's topic of "Health & Self-improvement." Without wandering off into arcane discussions concerning what constitutes mental health and whether our resident man of the cloth falls on the safe side of these guidelines, we think you will agree that there is plenty of room here for self-improvement.

The hirsute cleric himself admits that he could stand to have his respect for computer manufacturers of every stripe improved (if not totally rehabilitated). With the mad scramble for market share in full force, the last person who seems to matter to any of the companies that crank out these machines is the end user. What better venue to address this lacuna than a column by a user group junkie for user group junkies?

Father Mack, as you may know, has been involved with User Groups of the Macintosh™ variety since 1984. When we asked him why he first joined a User Group the padre replied: "I noticed that I was getting far too much sleep." Between his regular contributions to everyone's favourite CD ROM monthly magazine, his occasional turns in the chancel to preside at corporate worship, and his routine bouts with the marketing types who endeavour to convince us that we can't live without their company's latest gimcrack or gewgaw, Father Mack earns what he laughingly calls "a living" from the teaching of theology at the only Jesuit university in (or anywhere near, for that matter) New York City. Now if only he could receive some guarantee of papal infallibility he could really have something!

Infallible or not, we trust that you will find something to stimulate your cognitive processes in this month's "Letters from the User Group Fringe...". Read on, brave reader, read on.