

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.

Mar. 6, 1925.

Notre Dame Needs Men.

If the Congregation of Holy Cross had twice as many priests and Brothers as it has, it could find plenty of work for them to do. If twenty members of the present senior class were to enter the Novitiate in June, it would be at least six years before any of them would be available to meet the urgent needs of the community. If twenty members of each graduating class for the next ten years were to enter the community, it would be a generation before even the present demands for man-power would be supplied, and future demands would still be shifting for themselves.

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In the midst of the Novena for Vocations, there is nothing improper in a frank talk about home needs. It is a delicate subject, because the primary purpose of the University is to train Catholic lay leaders, and the University has never laid itself open to the charge of proselytizing, even in the holy cause of religious vocations. The Congregation of Holy Cross has a plain need, however; it must have more men if the kind of work it is doing is to go on, and it is only proper that this need should be laid before those who should be most interested in it, the students who believe in the kind of education that Notre Dame gives.

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It is the lack of man-power that has increased the cost of education at Notre Dame. Notre Dame has always had laymen on its faculty, and she hopes always to continue this policy. For years and years they formed between forty and fifty per-cent of the teaching body, and she feels for these devoted men who have dedicated their lives to her service and yours, the deepest admiration and gratitude. But admiration and gratitude are unsatisfactory substitutes for food and clothing; salaries must be paid, and there is a deal of difference between the subsistence which a religious receives in exchange for his services, and even a meagre salary which must meet the needs of a layman in the world. The proportion of 50-50 between religious and laymen was disturbed a few years ago by the great influx of students; and between the increase in the cost of living and the numerical increase in the lay faculty, the salary list went up almost two hundred per-cent.

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The burden placed on the priests by the disturbance of the old proportion is very considerable, and it has taken its toll in health and lives. By the very constitution of the University, there is a great deal of administrative work that must remain in the hands of members of the community; and when the number of priests remains almost stationary, the burden on each becomes proportionately greater. And Notre Dame does not stint where her students are concerned; for example, she frees one priest from major obligations in the classroom and from administrative work, largely to minister to the spiritual wants of those who cannot hear the bell in the morning. She does this because her education is primarily moral, and she wants her students to realize that all the graces of Mother Church are at their disposal for the asking, if they want to be moral. Notre Dame will go to any length to help.

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The work here will go on, because it is God's work. It can be increased in effectiveness and made more widespread if it receives more help. Whether you want to share in its merit is up to you; if you feel an inclination to do so, there is a definite course of action open. For a vocation to the priesthood or to the religious life three things are needed; 1) physical fitness to undertake the very active sedentary life; 2) mental fitness to learn what is needful; 3) moral fitness to follow the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience.

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Mar. 6, 1925, (Cont'd.)

If the Holy Ghost is tempting you to this life, talk the matter over with Our Blessed Lord during your adoration today, and if the way seems hard, make a sound meditation tonight during the Way of the Cross after Benediction. Remember His words: "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me." And keep in mind the reward: "If any man will leave father and mother and house and lands for My sake, he will receive a hundredfold in this world and eternal life in the next."

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Urgent: Floyd Genin has gone home to undergo a dangerous operation. Before he left word came that his brother is critically ill.

John F. O'Hara, C.S.C.,  
Prefect of Religion.