

Lenten sermon and  
Benediction tonight.  
6:30 and 7:00.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
March 24, 1943

Out of town inquirers.  
write to Holy Cross  
Seminary, Notre Dame, Ind.

### Have you A Vocation?

Our Blessed Lord is calling some of you to carry on His work of saving souls. Most of you are called either to the Service or to industry, but not all. The priesthood must go on. And Christ is speaking to some hearts on the campus. Are you trying to make up your mind? You can't reach a decision alone. Seek the advise of one of the priests on the campus immediately. The following advise on vocations given by Father Frank Gartland, C.S.C., former Prefect of Religion, in the Youth Section of OUR SUNDAY VISITOR will help you:

#### Dangerous Postponing.

The point is, every day you delay - you seventeen, eighteen and nineteen year olders - is a day lost and it may prove the end of your priestly vocation.

#### Wobbly?

But you may say, I can't seem to bring myself to a definite decision. I go up and down. Today, yes; tomorrow, no; the next day, yes. Shall I? Shall I not? . . . Vocation is a simpler mystery than many a young man (or woman) makes of it. Most likely an angel will not come, tap your shoulder, and say: "Go. Go now." Vocation come down to two things: Desire and ability.

#### Desire.

DESIRE. Not sentiment, not emotion. But an intellectual conviction. The priesthood is the thing in life I most want and am most willing to sacrifice everything to obtain. Objection: but one day I feel I would give anything for it; the next day I'm in another state of mind . . . Answer: This is feeling up and down. The real desire, if you have it - a thing of the mind and heart and not emotions - will remain deep within, steady, despite the ups and downs of your feelings . . . Ask yourself questions in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament...

#### Ability.

ABILITY. This is threefold. Mental: meaning you do not have to be a genius, but you must have enough grey matter to handle Latin, philosophy, theology. Most of all, you must show common sense, prudence, judgment. Moral abilities: meaning not that you must already be a saint now, but that you must mean earnestly to become one. Bad habits unbroken are a bar to the priesthood. Bad habits broken are not. And physical ability: . . . you must have good health. No TB, no fits, no serious hereditary diseases in the family tree. You must be strong enough to do a full day's work in the Apostolate..

#### Yellow? Deceitful?

If some people say you would be unpatriotic to enter now, that's humbug. America needs Jesus Christ more than it need anybody else - certainly more than it needs you, one among millions, in the Fighting Forces. But as a priest you become Another Christ. Never forget that. As to what people think, let them think. You know whether you're a draft dodger. God knows . . . (What has been said for the priesthood, goes by way of comparison for the brotherhood.)

YOU CAN ENTER THE SEMINARY NOW. The government has made explicit provision for pre-theological divinity students: IV-D, exempt.

