

Whether You Like It Or Not You Have A Vocation!

Many important decisions have humble beginnings--a chance acquaintance, a bit of friendly advice from parents or priest, the happy smile of a zealous grade school Sister.....a fervent prayer. Anything may be the source of a vocation which is of tremendous import.

Catholic pulpit, press and radio plead for vocations. "Vocations must be fostered... There's an alarming shortage of priests and religious the world over."

Has it ever occurred to you that you have a vocation? Not particularly a special vocation to the clerical or religious state, but a vocation, nevertheless, to a specific life-work which is truly a call from God.

Religious and priests have special vocations. Other vocations less special are properly called vocations too. The married state is a vocation. Single life in the world dedicated to the service of God is a vocation.

When the Church asks you to pray for vocations, ordinarily she urges you to beg God to increase the number of special vocations--that is, vocations to the religious life and the priesthood.

Notre Dame, listening to the Church's plea, encourages you to pray for vocations too, not only in the commonly understood sense of the word, but in the less understood sense as well. The world (God knows) needs saintly priests and religious-vowed lives --but it also needs dedicated lives. A lay life may very well be a dedicated life. As a follower of Christ you are called to the service of God and His Church in and through your own career as a married man or an unmarried man. In that sense you have a vocation--a calling. St. Paul--Epistle to the Romans--addresses his message to the all "called to be saints."

Vocation then must be better understood. It is a generic term needing explanation when applied to each of the three principal states in life. From vocation in general stems these particular callings, one of which you must choose:

1. Marriage;
2. Dedicated single life;
3. Priesthood and religious state.

Vocation understood with this triple distinction is something far more extensive than any special state into which it may be resolved. The laity as well as priests and religious are called by God to do His will. Every baptized Catholic as an individual and as a follower of Christ is called to live as He lived, think as He thinks, love and hate whatever He loves and hates. As a social person this Christ-life already possessed by sanctifying grace is your means to transform--Christianize--that environment in which God's providence places you--as doctor, lawyer, engineer, business man, working man, etc. BUT YOU ARE CALLED TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD.

This Christ-life is not restricted to convent and cloister. It is a life shared in common with every member--married or single--of Christ's Mystical Body.

Every Thursday afternoon-4:45 to 5:45--Holy Cross priests will make a public hour of adoration in the main church to pray for vocations--for vocations to the Community (priesthood and brotherhood) and (important for you) for your vocations that you may make a proper choice of your own state in life. Prayer is the most powerful approach toward the solution of any important problem. You are invited to make this holy hour.