

Weekly Thursday Holy Hour      University of Notre Dame      ....choice of state of life.  
4:45--5:45 p.m., for vocations      Religious Bulletin      Rosary at 5:00 p.m. (Prayers:  
and for help to know your....      October 20, 1949      Godfather of T. Roemer (Cav.))

### When Are You Getting Married?

Before popping the question tomorrow or the day after tomorrow read what Frederic Frans has to say about marriage as a vocation. The Bulletin will digest an article he wrote for America, February 10, 1945. His comments are timely today or any day.

Priests and nuns have been having their say about the shortage of religious vocations. It may be presumptuous of a layman to offer his views on the same subject, but we of the laity are very much interested in the problem of religious vocations. We know how much we need them, how lost we would be in a dreary world without them. What in the world would become of us without our priests to offer up the Holy Sacrifice, without our Religious teachers and nurses and counselors?

Yet, there are not a few of us who think that part of the problem, at least, lies with the holy people themselves, especially in the restricted way they talk about vocations. Mention the word vocation to most people and, whether you put an adjective in front of it or not, they think you are talking of a religious vocation.

Every human being, as I understand religion, is bound to consecrate to God his life and all his living. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass teaches us that we are all bound to unite the sacrifice of our own lives with the Sacrifice of Christ on the Altar. The big motivation of every Catholic life is supposed to be a deep personal love for Christ, a love deep enough and real enough to move us to the closest possible imitation of him.

Every human being must have a vocation if vocation means that manner of state of life in which God wants us to offer to Him the best of our service. God created me to serve Him, not in a vague way, but in a very particular way. In creating me He put into me all those qualities and gifts and attractions that would enable me to find my place in life and to fill it in a holy way.

From all eternity, God willed us to be saints, not all in the same measure or in the same way of life, but according to the measure of our gifts and in a very definite field of service. That is our vocation. It has to be so, FOR GOD NEEDS AND HIS CHURCH NEEDS AND HIS WORLD NEEDS SAINTLY PRIESTS AND NUNS, BUT ALSO SAINTLY HUSBANDS AND WIVES, SAINTLY MOTHERS, AND FATHERS, SAINTLY DOCTORS AND NURSES AND POLITICIANS AND SO ON. So vocation to me means God's own choosing of a way of life in which a man or a woman will achieve sanctity, serve God and serve his neighbor.

A Catholic boy should become a priest because he is convinced that God wants him to achieve his sanctity and render his service in the priesthood. A Catholic girl determines on marriage basically because she is convinced that she has met the man with whom God wishes her to achieve sanctity and render her meed of service to God, His Church and His world.

### "The Vocation of Marriage."

Too little has been made of this vocational view of marriage, of the will of God in marriage, of the deliberate choice from early years of marriage as a saintly vocation. God calls priests and nuns and brothers. But I also like to think that He "called" my wife and me, and all husbands and wives to Marriage. (To be continued)

Prayers: (dec'ed) friend of J. Kelly (Cav); friend of J. Steis (Cav); friend of Ed Coffey (Cav.). Ser. Ill: George Egel, '47 (Polio); gr'father of Joe Vergera (Za).  
1 Sp. Int.