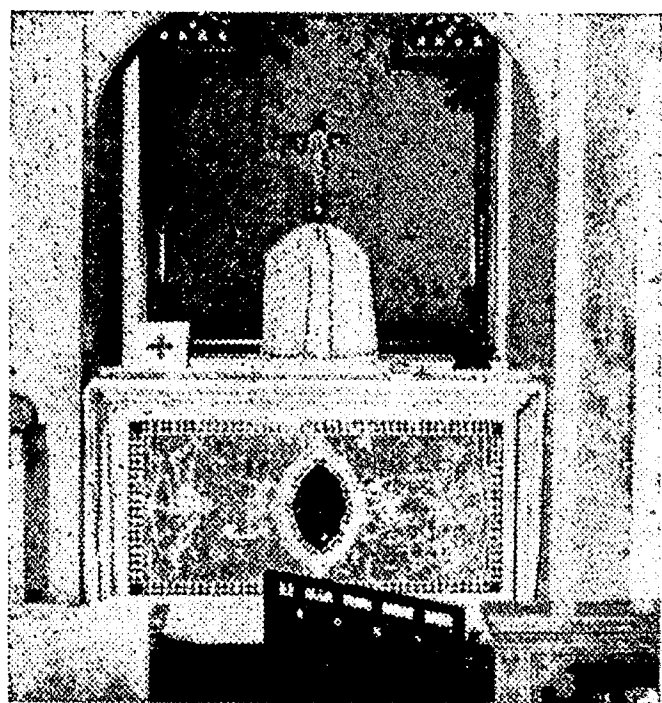
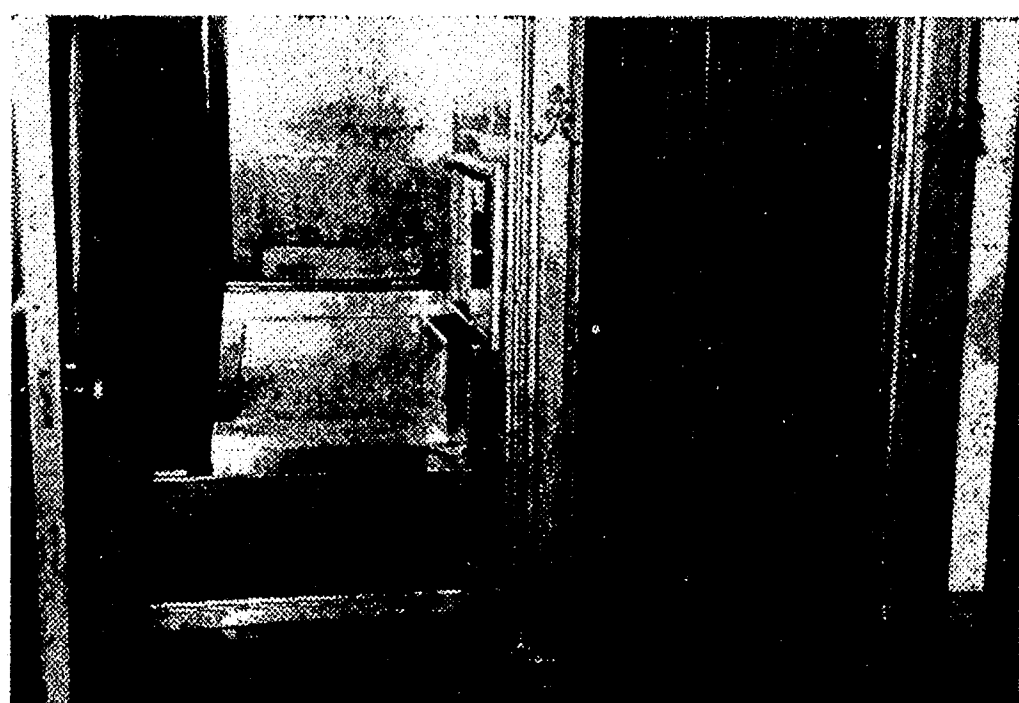


DROP YOUR NETS!



The Locked Door



Empty Confessional

Behind this locked tabernacle door lives Jesus Christ, King of Kings, Son of the Most High God, Redeemer of the human race. . . . He it is Who said, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. . . . If any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever." . . . Behind this locked door lives the same Lord and Master Who raised Lazarus to life, cured the blind and lame, blessed little children, walked on the waters, suffered in the Garden, died on the cross. . . . If not to Thee "Lord, to whom shall we go?"

At the Last Supper this same Lord and Master ordained "other Christs" to be His hands, feet, lips, mind and heart in the world of men till the end of time. . . . His Gospel would be preached, infants baptized, converts instructed, confessions heard, Masses celebrated, students taught, sick annointed, the dead buried . . . just because other men like Peter, James and John, Matthew, Mark and Luke would "drop their nets" and follow Him. . . . No sanctuary will be entered, no Mass celebrated, no tabernacle opened, except it be by human hands annointed for sacrament and sacrifice. . . . There are unopened even empty tabernacles in our world today because there are too few priests. . . . Thousands of hungry souls kneel expectantly at the altar rails of the nations yearning for the Bread of Life. . . . But there are too few priests to offer sacrifice and to unlock the tabernacles of Life.

Every diocese, every religious community in this country and abroad needs priests. . . . Holy Cross needs priests too—many more at Notre Dame, scores more to man parishes, colleges, high schools, missions in India, South America and Australia. . . . Every Thursday afternoon, 4:45 to 5:45, in Sacred Heart Church Holy Cross priests at Notre Dame make a public hour of adoration praying for an increase in the number of vocations to their Community, also begging God that you, their students, may choose that state in life to which God is calling you, whether it be for marriage, dedicated single life, or the religious life and the priesthood.

The confessional! Erected by the Carpenter of Nazareth nineteen hundred years ago when He said, "Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them." . . . This is the divine dispensary where the ills of men's souls are diagnosed and cured. . . . "Many sins are forgiven her because she has loved much. . . . Go and sin no more. . . . Son, thy sins are forgiven thee." . . . How many empty confessionals there are in the world today, God alone knows. . . . How many souls there are who are patiently waiting for a Good Shepherd to absolve them from their sins, God alone knows. . . . How many wanderers there are who having tasted the bitterness of sinful pleasures like prodigal sons are eager to whisper, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before Thee: I am not worthy to be called Thy son." . . . A singular transformation takes place in these confessionals—sinners become saints; sin-guilty souls recover baptismal innocence; souls like soiled drops of water are lifted up on high and transformed into flakes of immaculate snow.

Souls live today who will be dragged from the mouth of hell just because a priest years ago in his youth answered Christ's summons to leave mother and father, home and country. . . . Souls live today who will be led out of the broad road that leads to destruction and directed into the narrow road that leads to eternal life; indeed, there are souls already created or yet to be created who will learn to love God and man just because *one of you* will answer the call of Christ to "drop your nets": yes, drop everything—worldly ambitions, riches, sports, your own will, the sweet joys of family life—to dedicate your minds, hearts and bodies, your talents, abilities and powers, in order to become the lips of Christ absolving sinners from their sins, the hands of Christ annointing the dying, the feet of Christ seeking the lost sheep, the mind of Christ teaching eternal truths, the heart of Christ loving all men.

Pray God that He may direct more laborers into the harvest. . . . Pray God that if He summons you, you will have the courage, strength and generosity to leave all things in order to become one with Christ in power and glory before God and man.