

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Religious Bulletin

December 4, 1957

Worthy Of Interest To All Notre Dame Men

Bishop Fulton Sheen made the observation, not long ago, that there is never a decrease in vocations; there is only a decrease in those who follow a vocation — because Our Lord never leaves His Church without calling sufficient ministers of His Mysteries. And St. John Vianney, the Curé of Ars, is reported to have made the observation that, while his good friends, the fledgling band of priests of Holy Cross under the direction of Father Moreau, would never be a numerous group, still they were destined to do great work for the Church.

Part of that prophecy, at least, has been verified before your own eyes in the success enjoyed by Notre Dame. Witness how generously God and His Blessed Mother have blessed this school of yours. You have ample evidence that Divine Providence has been lavish in our midst.

And another thing: God and His Blessed Mother have not overlooked our Holy Cross priests. Many vocations have come to Notre Dame in recent years — so many that we must now try to find a new home for them to study, and so prepare themselves for the active ministry of the future. Many of these men, your classmates today, will ultimately teach at Notre Dame; others are destined for the difficult foreign missions in Pakistan and elsewhere; and still others will be absorbed in the other activities in God's Vineyard.

Today Holy Cross priests are few in number, it's true. But a brighter day is dawning. And to meet its requirements we are now building a new seminary to house our priests of tomorrow. To finish this seminary, we need your help severely.

A Blessed Privilege

Few Catholic families have a son of their own flesh and blood at the altar as Priest and Victim. But God in His Mercy has made it possible for every family to adopt a priest-son, by helping to shelter a seminarian during his years of training, and so to share in the fruits of his life-long apostolate. What a sound investment for your Eternity! What a splendid charity, also, to so many other members of the Mystical Body of Christ — for by this charity you bring into their lives the ministry of Christ Himself through priests who devote their lives primarily to the education of Catholic youth — not only for the immediate future, but for all the years to come!

Our Alumni have heard our plea. As grateful sons of Notre Dame, eager to share in this great charity, they have promised to heed the request to the best of their financial ability.

You, as members of the student body, and as the direct recipients of the apostolate of so many Holy Cross priests, you, too, should want to make your contribution to this new Moreau Seminary. In your own lifetime, thus far, you have received much — very much — from the charity of others. Today at Notre Dame, you are reaping the harvest of 115 years of Holy Cross toil and sacrifice to provide this school of your choice. Now comes an opportunity for you to manifest a little generosity for God, and for His ministers of tomorrow, the future stewards of Notre Dame.

And many of your families — to whom God has been very generous — may want to lay spiritual claim to a share in the Masses, prayers, and apostolate of an adopted priest-son. They can do so by making a contribution to shelter these Holy Cross priests of tomorrow. Indeed, it is a classic opportunity for laying up treasures in Heaven. It's worth discussing the matter with them over the Holidays, because the dividends for this noble gesture are past all reckoning. Probably they are best enunciated, and evaluated, in the words of a great English Cardinal who once observed:

"When I come to die, I want nothing more than to have a priest whom I have helped to Ordination, standing at the altar as a shield between me and God's Justice!"

There is a time-honored adage that "Charity begins at home." That's why we submit this appeal for help to the Student Senate, the entire student body, and to their families.

We commend this holy project to your good prayers, no less than to your purses.