

Friday is feast of  
Our Lady of Sorrows.  
Love for your heavenly ...

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
September 13, 1944

and earthly mothers  
should bring you to  
Mass and Communion.

Is Christ Asking You To Be a Priest?

A few weeks ago, the mailman slipped a letter under the office door of the Prefect of Religion. It was a large business envelope addressed to "The Chaplain, University of Notre Dame." Inside the envelope was a smaller one, sealed and containing a very telling line: "FOR A CATHOLIC PRIEST ONLY." The incident draws attention to the importance of the Catholic priest in the world. Most Catholics carry a reminder of the position the priest holds in their lives. Impressed on the medal they wear suspended from their neck are the words: "IN CASE OF ACCIDENT, CALL A PRIEST."

Christ needs more priests to carry out the work He started. There is endless work to be done. Maybe He is calling you to the priesthood.

The Priestly Attitude.

Christ is looking for big-minded men, men who want to bring the doctrine of Christ to the millions of souls who have never heard of Him; who are thinking of the poor and the ways and means of relieving their suffering; who are anxious about the sinful condition of the world and about men caught in the clutches of immorality and licentiousness; who are thinking about spreading appreciation for the Sacrifice of the Mass and the Real Presence on the altar.

Christ is looking for big-hearted men. The apostle of Christ must make many sacrifices. He must leave the comforts of his own home and family. His assignments may take him to foreign lands. He will spend hours in prayer for the glory of God and for a fruitful outcome of his preaching and suffering. He will perform acts of self-denial to bring the grace of conversion to sinners. He will visit the sick, give counsel to young and old, and hurry to the dying at all hours of the day and night. Christ is looking for men who do not want to be ordinary; He wants men who are trying to make their minds and hearts as big as His.

Christ may be attracting you to His work? Are you interested in preaching, in doing good for souls, in teaching, in parish work, in the foreign missions? If you are, that may be the beginning of the call of Christ. There are four signs which indicate that Christ is calling you.

Signs Of A Call.

A good head. A priest is a teacher. His tools are the doctrines and laws of Christ. He must have ability to pass the courses of instruction which prepare him for this work as teacher. Ordinary ability is required. The priest is not expected to be a genius. He, like other students, must burn the midnight oil and plug away at his studies. The man who can pass a college course is endowed with the powers of intellect expected in the priest.

A good body. A priest needs a healthy body. His work requires the use of hands, feet, eyes, a body that can stand study, work and a day that knows no time-clock.

A good heart. By heart is meant a good soul, one that loves virtue and tries to practice it. Christ expects His priests to be models of perfections. The sinner can have no part in the sacred work of Christ.

A desire to do the priestly work. The first three signs are not difficult to determine. The fourth is often the one that brings indecision to the mind of a young man. He should seek advice from a priest about his desires to become a priest. If the thoughts of a vocation are running through your mind, consult one of the priests on the campus. Maybe Christ is calling you? Don't turn aside this special interest He is showing in you. Even the serviceman can be called, he can start his scholastic preparations after the war; Now he is developing the priestly virtues. A priest can iron out your difficulties. Be sure to see him.