

(Ill) Tom McDonough, a
cousin of Bill Dixon (BP)
and a friend of George

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Weiss (Sor); also Fr. John
McNamara, '97, recovering
from serious illness.

Have You Ever Made A Convert?

"The world's worst salesmen" -- that's the comment of a convert about Catholics. And he's right. Very few are as zealous for spreading the Faith as the young American sailor who made 186 converts in his three years in uniform. How many Catholics make even one convert in a lifetime?

Matters should not rest this way. First, because you have something that many of your non-Catholic friends are looking for, even craving for. Do you think everyone enjoys the knowledge that there is an after-life, a Heaven where all good works will be rewarded? Sit down sometime and speak to a non-Catholic about what you know about the Saints, about the power of prayer, about miracles, about the Guardian Angel God has assigned to each soul. Tell them about the Son of God who became man and died that heaven might be reopened after the Fall of Adam. Mention the power and goodness of the Blessed Virgin and her love for all men. Merely hint to one outside the Faith something about the Resurrection of the Body at the end of the world, about Purgatory, about the presence of Christ in our chapels and churches.

"Never heard of these," they will reply for the most part. And these are the truths you take for granted. You are living by these unseen realities. They make life worth living for you. Why be miserly with the gold mine of truth you possess? Why not share your wealth with your friends?

There should be evidence of the apostolic itch in your life, that urge to bring souls to the Catholic Church. In the Sacrament of Confirmation you received the power to be a convert maker, the "itch" to spread the Faith. Confirmation made you a Soldier of Christ. Soldiers are not always on the defensive, that is, protecting the interests of their king. They have also the more important duty of going on the offensive, of bringing more territory and people under the sway of their leader. In Confirmation Christ gave you the grace to want to bring more souls into His Kingdom, the Church, and at the same time He gave you the right to the graces necessary to do a good job of it. You have the grace. Stir it up.

There is no single method of sowing the seed of Faith. Sometimes it will be through conversation, a "session" with the fellows. Pamphlets taken from the Notre Dame pamphlet racks often find a resting place in a bus or street car where someone will pick them up and read them during the ride. Put the pamphlets or Catholic papers you have read to this use; don't destroy them. When you finish reading all the ads in the bus, why not conclude the exercise with a prayer that one companion rider will be led soon to the Catholic Faith? There are a hundred other ways of spreading the Seeds of Truth; these are but a few that all can do.

Next week the seed that all Catholic are asked to sow is that of prayer through the observance of the Church Unity Octave. This is an eight day period of prayer, worldwide in its observance. It starts January 18, next Thursday. Pray during these days for conversions, especially for your non-Catholic friends, maybe your father or mother, your girl or a lapsed Catholic.

There is no cure for the apostolic itch. It's not to stop at one or two or 186. Christ said, "Go, teach ALL nations." When are you going to start?

Drafted?? Come In Before Leaving.

Students who must answer the draft call should stop at the Office of one of the Prefects of Religion before leaving. They will be given a Special Blessing and useful material they can use profitably in the Service. A number of draftees have made a General Confession before leaving and have found the practice worthwhile. Don't wait until the day you leave before dropping in.