

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
November 10, 1947

A Letter About A Vocation

"Dear Father: I was in your freshman religion class in 1943. I was thinking of the seminary at that time, but if you remember, I was in V-12 and decided not to enter then. I went on and was graduated in Engineering.

"After leaving Notre Dame I was sent aboard ship. I was discharged from the Navy in July of 1946 and after that took an engineering position in a local plant. I then decided that this type of work was not the work I was cut out for. It was quite a shock to arrive at that conclusion so late, but the fact remains. I came up here to this State University to take up special work in insurance, when after a few weeks of it it dawned on me--why spend my life worrying about life insurance when the only thing that counts is "after life "insurance.

"I have often looked back to 1943 and wished, in a way, I had entered the seminary then. However, since then I have seen a little more of life and have come to the one conclusion--there is only one thing that really makes any sense and that is God. I struggled for an engineering position and obtained it, but suddenly there came upon me the realization--'What does it matter as compared with God and keeping His commands?'

"I have been praying lately for my vocation, and I am writing you to find out if there is any chance of entering the seminary at my age of 22. My Engineering average was 86.48%. I feel confident I can do the work required. I have seen quite a lot, and I believe I know now what I want to do, namely to offer myself to God through the means of the only vocation that really counts, the Holy Priesthood. I hope it is not too late.

"I realize there is an advantage to going into the seminary earlier, but now that I have seen a little more of what people call 'life' and have seen how insignificant everything is in comparison to serving God in the Priesthood, I feel I am better set now. This is not 'sour grapes! Marriage is one of God's ways too, and God has blessed it. Single life as a layman has it's advantages and blessings too, but for me, I believe the best is the priesthood. That's why I say all else seems insignificant, not for everybody, but for me.

"The entire trouble with the world today is that people have forgotten what they were created for. I have seen it time after time since I left Notre Dame. Many people who are supposed to be educated men are at a loss to explain why they exist. It would be ludicrous if it weren't so tragic.

"Kindly accept this letter, therefore, Father, as my application to enter the seminary, and the congregation of Holy Cross. While there are many things I feel I could be interested in, I feel I should like to teach. If you can arrange it, I would appreciate coming down for a conference. I shall be anxiously awaiting your reply, and I shall pray that if it is God's will, I will be able to enter the seminary soon."

(Without a doubt, God is calling a number of Notre Dame students to the priesthood. If you feel the call, you should seek counsel of some priest.)

PRAYERS: Brother Justin, C.S.C., for many years the rector of Brownson and Carroll halls, died Saturday evening after a long illness. Remember, too, three special intentions.