

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
April 12, 1948

WHAT STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT VACATIONS

"Evidence contained in three Surveys, those of 1924, 1925 and 1926, shows that about 71 per cent of the students who in these years filled out questionnaires at one time or another had thought of becoming priests. An attempt was made in the Survey of 1926 to ascertain the basis of this rather widespread interest in the priesthood.

"The question was put thus: What attraction has the priesthood had for you personally? Altogether, 766 replied, and for 231, or 32 per cent, the priestly state held no attraction whatever. The remaining 535 (68 per cent) 'admired, 'envied' priests; regarded the priestly life as an extra-ordinary 'chance to help others,' as a Peaceful and holy life,' felt as priests they would be 'near to God and unworldly,' But some considered the sacrifice too great.

"Why do lay students give up the idea of becoming priests? In the Survey of 1925, 533 students answered with these results:

- 24% had never entertained the idea of the priesthood.
- 11% still retained the idea
- 14% gave it up because the world lured.
- 10% gave it up because they lacked a vocation.
- 11% gave it up because they felt unfit.
- 8% gave it up because they felt unworthy.
- 5% gave it up because they outgrew it.
- 5% gave it up because they didn't like it.
- 3% gave it up because of girls.
- 2% gave it up because of scandal
- 1% gave it up because of financial reasons.
- 6% gave various other reasons.

"Are vocations to the priesthood or to the religious life awakened at Notre Dame? Of 524 students answering such a question in the Survey of 1927, 46 per cent declare affirmatively, whereas about 6 per cent felt that their vocation had been lost or lessened at Notre Dame.

"The boy who is trying to make up his mind about a vocation needs the advice of some friendly, wise, and experienced priest. But the Survey of 1932 seems to show that boys are reluctant to seek such advice. The question put in 1932 read thus: If You have ever thought of being a priest, have you sought advice of the problem? 589 students answered, 60 per cent of whom had never sought advice on this important matter concerning which they had been at least somewhat concerned. The remaining 40 per cent had asked or received without asking, at least some advice on their vocation." (Survey of Fifteen Religious Surveys -1929-1936)

Sunday Pain-In-The-Necks

- No. 1 Those students who come in late for Mass. This is sinful.
- No. 2 Those who do nothing during Mass, neither read nor say their rosary. There are missals in every pew, and rosaries can be secured in the Pamphlet Room in Dillon Hall.
- No. 3 The back row boys who stretch out their arms on the back of the pew like they were reclining on a park bench.

PRAYERS: (deceased) father of Ted Bugas (How.) (Ill) Wm. J. Corbett, N.D. trustee and benefactor; father of Ed. O'Connor, '47 Three Special Intentions.