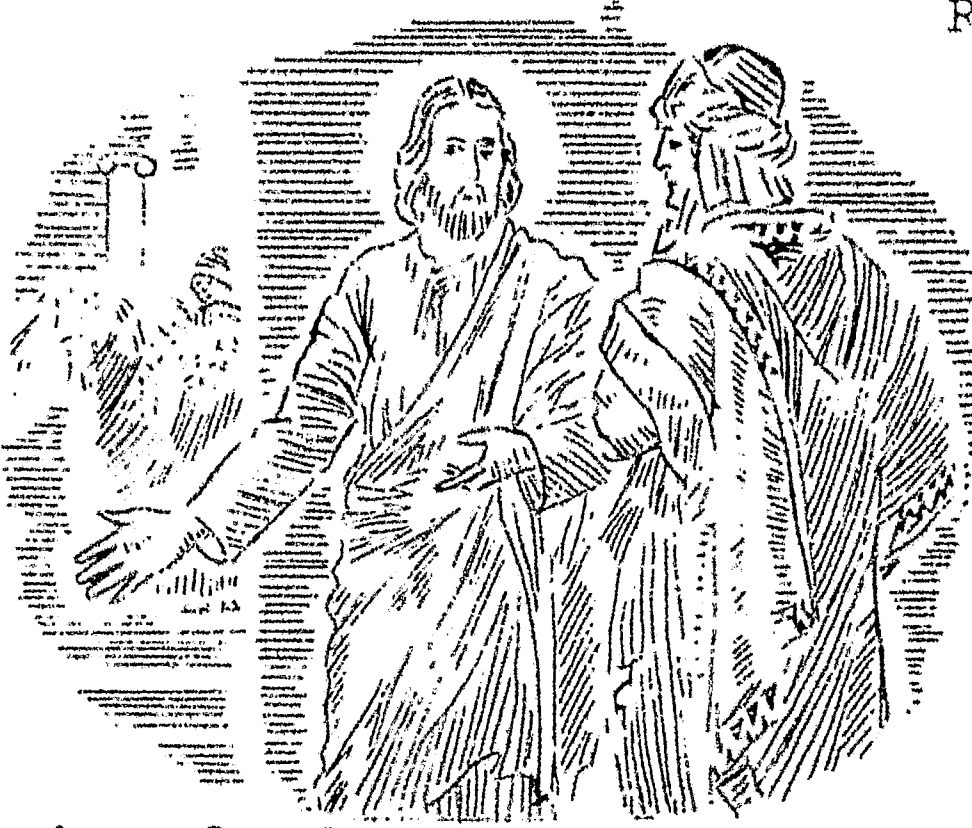


## THE BOY WHO SAID "NO"



When Our Blessed Lord tapped a number of fishermen on the shoulder and said, "Come, follow me," these men left their nets and took up the priestly work Christ offered them.

But when the same invitation was offered to a young man, he refused.

The lad was a good boy; the Gospel says he had kept all the Commandments from childhood. And he must have found special favor with Christ, otherwise the invitation to become a priest and a poor man would not have been extended to him. The boy did not grasp at the opportunity to save souls: "He went away sad, because he had great possessions."

The bishops of this country are worried. One of their chief concerns is the lack of vocations to the priesthood, to the religious life and the sisterhood. Bishop Noll, the Ordinary of this diocese of Fort Wayne wants you to make a Novena for Vocations, beginning this Friday. The whole diocese will be praying for these nine days. If you do your part, God will certainly be moved to hear our petitions.

This vocation business must be your concern too. No thinking person can take it lightly. Figure out. If there are few priests, you will not find it easy to go to confession, to hear Mass or to receive Holy Communion. With a scarcity of priests the dying may not receive the Last Sacraments.

If there are fewer and fewer religious in our monasteries and convents, you will have fewer holy souls making reparation for you and praying for your welfare. If the number of nuns is small, you may have no one to aid you in giving your children a Catholic education. So you have a real stake in vocations.

We are not asking you to do much. A little done by every student will show up big before the Throne of God. Will you do at least this? Say the following prayers. Cut them out and keep them on top of your desk, in one corner. Say the prayers every day, before you begin your study. They will take about two minutes of your time. Those two minutes may mean the salvation of a thousand souls.

### Novena For Vocations Prayers (Oct. 22-31)

O Mary, Queen of the clergy, pray for us; obtain for us many holy priests.  
O Lord, grant unto Thy Church saintly priests and fervent religious.  
Send forth, O Lord, labourers into Thy harvest. (300 days indulg. for each prayer)

To thee, O Star of the Sea, from the waves of this life I lift my eyes;  
guide my soul, and show me a course whereupon I may serve our Divine  
Master, and at last reach the port of our Heavenly country, through  
Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS: (Ill) George Kroger (OC), appendectomy, St. Joe Hosp.; Irene Shea, friend of Ken Roxbury (EP); grandmother of Bill Rogers (Dil); Sister M. Oswald, FCM; John Christal, friend of Fay McConnon (Wal), polio. One Thanksgiving. Five Special Intentions.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Have mercy on us!