

Ill: Jack Miles, '47; Rev. H. University of Notre Dame.....Brother of Bill Puetz  
Gallagher, C.S.C.; friends Religious Bulletin (Dil); father of Jim McGuire  
(with polio) of J. Breig November 7, 1949 (Alu)

### One Billion Two Hundred Million Heathens!

Thursday's Bulletin regularly deals with states of life--dedicated single life, marriage, religious life and priesthood. One of these three you must choose. Regardless of which is chosen, Christ's "call"; "Be ye perfect as your heavenly father is perfect" still holds true.

In the present order of divine Providence every one of you is either in the state of grace or in the state of mortal sin. In other words, you are either turned toward God, your supernatural end, or turned away from Him. All are called to this supernatural end, which consists in the Beatific Vision of God and the love which results from that vision. It is for this end you were created, and it is toward this same end you are led by Christ Who, after the fall of Adam, offered Himself as a victim for your salvation.

When you live in the state of grace, eternal life in you has already begun. There is no radical difference between the sanctifying grace you now possess and the eternal life which will be yours after death. Without sanctifying grace there can be nothing but eternal death, but this death is not death in the absolute sense. You will live, yes, but only in the sheer existence of everlastingly prolonged, unending punishment of the deadly hell of the damned.

Getting back to our subject matter--ONE BILLION TWO HUNDRED MILLION HEATHENS. That's a rough estimate of the number of pagan souls in the world to be brought to the feet of Christ. Statistics from foreign missions inform us approximately 21,000 priests are among the missionary personnel. Each missionary, therefore, has a quota of 57,000 non-Christians to convert.

In our own country 70,000,000 Americans live outside all church affiliations. Over 1000 counties throughout our land have no resident Catholic priest. Rural sections are the most inadequately served. Of the 13,000,000 negroes only 300,000 are converts.

So the Catholic Church in America faces the tremendous task of meeting demands to supply personnel for preaching and teaching the Word of God, for administering the sacraments, conducting schools, expanding the Church at home and abroad.

The late war drastically curtailed the plentiful supply of priests and religious from the continent of Europe. That is but one added reason why the vocational burden on the United States has been doubled, even tripled.

In spite of the influx of additional recruits into monasteries, seminaries and convents in recent years, the supply is still far short. Many, many more are needed. Appeals from pulpit, press and radio have fallen in many cases upon ears that hear not. Is American generosity dying out? Not on your life! The last war proved there is a basic heroism in the heart of American youth. Show them where they are needed and what is to be done--they will go, cost what it may. There is no shortage of vocational material, but a lack of a more generous response to Christ's call, or a lack of understanding what this whole business is all about.

Why lack of response? One reason might be ignorance--ignorance of the tremendous need for religious vocations not only from among young men but young women too. Religious communities of women must have more candidates if they hope ever adequately to meet demands made upon them for staffing hospitals and expanding parochial school programs. (To be continued.)

Prayers: (deceased) father of Henry Woods, ex-'52; 8th anniversary--father of W. Cooney (Alu). Ill: gr'mother of P. Schaefer; mother of Stephen Bossell (How) Seriously Ill: Brother-in-law of Sister Tetronilla C.S.C.; 7 Spec. Int's.