

Tomorrow--THANKSGIVING. Of University of Notre Dame ...thanks. "And where are  
the ten lepers made clean Religious Bulletin the other nine?" Our Lord  
only one returned to give... November 23, 1949 has asked again and again.

### The Analysis

This week we again analyze possible reasons for the lack of a more generous response to the Church's appeal for more recruits to the religious life and the priesthood.

Another reason why might be the infiltration of paganism, worldliness, distractions, striving for social success at any cost, sensual pleasure, good times, money. These contrary spirits captivate, entangle the heart, place a sound-proof barrier around it so that Christ's invitation to leave all things, to "drop your nets," is unheeded.

Still another cause might be home environment. Many Catholic homes leave much to be desired. Materialistic ambitions of some parents for their children, breakdown of home discipline, carelessness of fathers and mothers in allowing their children to come and go as they please without checking on their companionships and places of entertainment are items to be seriously considered.

As a matter of fact, to offset the infiltration of cultured and uncultured paganism, we need to supernaturalize, truly Catholicize Catholic life in its entirety, whether it be in the home, parish, school, or place of business and employment.

To bring Christ into the market-place we must begin to pray. Through prayer we activate our faith. Through active faith we increase our love. Through effective love we draw close to God. Through God and in Him alone we achieve that perfection of Christian life to which we are all called. "This is the will of God, your sanctification."--I Tim. 4,3.

### A Personal Aside About Vocation.

So I became a priest. I wouldn't exchange one year of the priesthood for 1000 years in possession of every kingdom on the face of the earth. The happiness of a priest cannot be interpreted for anyone not a priest. It's indefinable except in broadest terms. I don't suppose everybody wants this kind of happiness or that everybody feels that way about it.

Some people, even well-meaning Catholics, think a young man is throwing away his life if he aspires to the Altar. The more materialistic a person's mentality the less spiritually minded and supernaturally understanding he will be.

In going through eight years of seminary training for the Holy Cross Fathers I met many ordinary men like myself but many extraordinary ones too--men with uncommon talents and abilities. Yet one and all were normal and real. They enjoyed their sports more than they "got a kick" out of long hours of study and prayer. They looked ahead to free days as avidly as any ordinary college student. It didn't take long to discover that if there is any place in the world where a dope or a dope is out of his element, it is among young Americans, flesh-and-blood men like yourselves, who bring honest minds and clean hearts to the feet of Christ to be disposed of however He sees fit.

There may have been a day when vigor and leanness were thought to be marks of grace and gentleness in a seminarian, but that tradition happily has been lost. The firm step, erect carriage, eager stomach, bright eye, flush of health on the cheek and the wiry nervous-tension that endures strain and rejects disease are believed to be sufficient compensation for whatever good and gentle things may have perished with it. (To be continued.)

Prayer: (Decorated) Aunt of Rev. R. Sheehan, S.C.C. & Fr. Fortnott, S.C.C. 7 Sp.Int.