

Benediction: 5 p.m.

University of Notre Dame Remember Jim Aoki.
Religious Bulletin
March 25, 1952

Wanted: Ushers!

For Our Sorrowful Mother Novena services ushers are needed. The job will consist primarily in handing out the novena prayerbooks before the services and distributing Novena Notes afterwards. . . To ring the huge church bell we need 12 volunteers, at least 12. . . . Those interested in either drop around to 117 Dillon tonight.

Anniversary Mass Tomorrow.

It was two years ago March 26 that Jack Donahoe, a senior from Walsh hall, died as the result of an unfortunate accident playing handball in the Rock. The Mass will be celebrated in Walsh at 7 o'clock. Let us remember him in our prayer. What we say of Jack could well be said of other Notre Dame men who have died here as students. Jack was ready to go, as any daily Communicant is. From 2 Machabees VI, 31:

Thus did this man die, leaving not only to young men, but also to all people, the memory of his death for an example of virtue and fortitude.

Your Role Important.

How the notion got started, what its origin is, is not known. When some persons speak of the Church, the first idea that pops into their mind is pope, hierarchy and priests--all merged together into one clerical mass. But the Church, as the Mystical Body of Christ, "consists first of all of the faithful. . . the laity, the Christian people. . . The first state of a Christian, the usual one, is to be a lay person. The Christian fold is the nurturing ground of the Church; it is to the laity that everything is ultimately referred."

Only the priesthood is designated by the power of Holy Orders, but, according to Cardinal Suhard, the complete instrument of evangelization is neither the one who has simply been baptized nor the priest alone; it is the Christian community. Hence the apostolic duty of the Church, composed not only of the "hierarchy but also the priesthood and the faithful, inseparably united," is to preach the Gospel to all men of all races and tongues.

This is the apostolic mission of the Whole Church. The duty of preaching in its fullness rests primarily on the Apostles and their successors, but, as Pius XI once pointed out, "if you study them carefully, the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation are the very ones which confer among other obligations that of the apostolate".

In his Letter to the Episcopate of the Philippines, Pius XI stressed the importance of laymen actively participating, sharing in the Church's hierarchical apostolate. Not only are laymen to live the Christian life integrally but their active participation in the Church's mission to unite all men in Christ "is an invaluable aid, and a necessary complement to the priestly ministry." This is Catholic Action.

A Preparation.

Among the electives for the fall term you will find a new course offered by the Department of Religion which will prepare you, through a study of the doctrinal content, literature and methods used in religious instruction, to actively participate in this apostolate we've been talking about. This new course was requested by the student members of the Notre Dame Unit of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. These men have grasped the correct idea that the salvation of human society does not rest with the priest alone but with and through the Whole Church. Priesthood and laity! We are the Church. We are the leaven of Christianity. The hands are not the feet, but we are one in Christ in His Body. Lack of cooperation between laymen and cleric is as senseless as it is painful to stamp on one's own fingers.