

Get over to the Mardi
Gras tonight, after the Frank
Sheed lecture at 8 p.m. in
the Eng. Bldg.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
February 14, 1955

Orchids to all the Blood
Donors who answered the Bul-
letin appeal! Room for more.

What Is The Third Order ?

St. Francis of Assisi, himself not a priest, founded three orders--the first for priests...the second for nuns...the third for men and women, married and single who, though occupied in trades and professions in the world, want to live a more nearly perfect Catholic life.

The Third Order is truly a religious order for people living in the world. It offers to lay men and women a clear definition of what constitutes their spiritual perfection. It provides ideals, aids, and advantages that direct and assist members toward the perfection of their state in life.

The Third Order presents a system of life by which the Gospel teachings can be practiced more intelligently and effectively by laymen. Members are urged to offer Mass and Holy Communion every day--however, the Rule requires Mass and Holy Communion only once a month. The Third Order Office, consisting of 12 Paters, Aves, and Glorias, is to be recited daily by members. There is a meeting every month that members are required to attend even at some sacrifice. Each tertiary always wears his habit -- a brown scapular, and the white Franciscan cord -- under his ordinary clothing. Members have the privilege of being buried in the full outer habit of the Order.

No rule of the Third Order binds in conscience. By failing to follow any of the prescriptions of the rule one simply forfeits the spiritual benefits attached to observance.

There are over 100,000 "tertiaries" (Members of the Third Order) in the United States alone. The local campus group had its canonical beginning in the spring of 1937. Great characters of history have been among members of the Third Order; Christopher Columbus, Raphael, and Michael Angelo, St. Thomas More, Daniel O'Connell, and Terence McSweeney, Francis Thompson and Matt Talbot. The popes have enthusiastically encouraged the spread of the Third Order.

The Third Order does not exclude a normal Catholic lay life. As a matter of fact, that is exactly what it fosters. It does not exclude membership in any other Catholic society such as the K.C.'s, or St. Vincent de Paul, or Liturgical Life, or Y.C.S. It encourages Tertiaries to join in the work of such organizations.

Third Order members, although aiming primarily at their own sanctification, devote themselves to the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy...Notre Dame Tertiaries take turns visiting sick students in the infirmary, tending to their needs, and informing rectors and roommates of their wants. Tertiaries also help the Prefect of Religion in whatever capacity they are able -- canvassing the halls for First Friday adoration, leading the recitative Mass, etc.

If you are interested and want further information, come to Room 211 in Walsh Hall anytime before February 28. Candidates will be received shortly after that date.

Sign Up Now For Adoration

This week, council members of your hall will approach you with the invitation to sign up for Lenten Adoration. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed daily in Sacred Heart Church from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. You are asked to select a convenient half-hour each week. You'll find it a golden opportunity to whittle down your Purgatorial sojourn -- at no great inconvenience to anyone.

PRAYERS - mother of Anne James (Accounting dept.); grandfather of Ray Lescher of Irons; cousin of Dick Cook of Dillon. Ill: mother of Mike Kiley of Dillon; Tom Donohue, '55.
2 Special Intentions.