Lenten sermon and
Benediction tonight.
6:30 and 7:00.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 24, 1943

Out of town inquirers.
write to Holy Cross
Seminary, Notre Dame, Ind.

Have you A Vocation?

Our Blessed Lord is calling some of you to carry on His work of
saving souls. Most of you are called either to the Service or
to Industry, but not all. The priesthood must go on. And Christ
is speaking to some hearts on the campus. Are you trying to make
up your mind? You can't reach a decision alone. Seek the advice
of one of the priests on the campus immediately. The following
advice on vocations given by Father Frank Gartland, C.S.C.,
former Prefect of Religion, in the Youth Section of OUR SUNDAY
VISITOR will help you:

Dangerous Postponing.

The point is, every day you delay - you seventeen, eighteen
and nineteen year olders - is a day lost and it may prove
the end of your priestly vocation.

Wobbly?

But you may say, I can't seem to bring myself to a definite
decision. I go up and down. Today, yes; tomorrow, no;
the next day, yes. Shall I? Shall I not? ... Vocation
is a simpler mystery than many a young man (or woman) makes
of it. Most likely an angel will not come, tap your shoulder, and say: "Go. Go
now." Vocation come down to two things: Desire and ability.

Desire.

DESIRE. Not sentiment, not emotion. But an intellectual conviction. The priesthood
is the thing in life I most want and am most willing to sacrifice everything to
obtain. Objection: but one day I feel I would give anything for it; the next day
I'm in another state of mind ... Answer: This is feeling up and down. The real
desire, if you have it - a thing of the mind and heart and not
emotions - will remain deep within, steady, despite the ups
and downs of your feelings ... Ask yourself questions in
the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament ...

Ability.

ABILITY. This is threefold. Mental: meaning you do not have
to be a genius, but you must have enough grey matter to handle
Latin, philosophy, theology. Most of all, you must show common
sense, prudence, judgment. Moral abilities: meaning not that
you must already be a sainthood, but that you must mean
earnestly to become one. Bad habits unbroken are a bar to the
priesthood. Bad habits broken are not. And physical ability:
... you must have good health. No TB, no fits, no serious
hereditary diseases in the family tree. You must be strong
enough to do a full day's work in the Apostolate ...

Yellow? Deceitful?

If some people say you would be unpatriotic to enter now, that's
humbug. America needs Jesus Christ more than it need anybody else - certainly more
than it needs you, one among millions, in the Fighting Forces. But as a priest you
become Another Christ. Never forget that. As to what people think, let them think.
You know whether you're a draft dodger. God knows ... (What has been said for the
priesthood, goes by way of comparison for the brotherhood.)

YOU CAN ENTER THE SEMINARY NOW. The government has made explicit provision for
pre-theological divinity students: IV-D, exempt.