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 grow 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 effect the infiltration of cultured and uncultured paganism, we need to supernaturally, 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."—Phil. 1:3.

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 indescribable 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 applies 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 any 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 five days or weekly as any ordinary college student. It didn't take love to discover that if there is any place in the world where a man can be a pope, it is out of the elements in any young American, flesh-calculated man like yourself, with bring least idea and least Norte to the feet of Christ to be disposed of where he sees fit.

These may have been a 3-12 inch fellow and be oozed perhaps and become more or less to be made of grace and gratitude in a cast-iron hat. But I wish I could not have been born.

The Holy Ghost, that sanctifying, refining influence, that makes of all men what the divine essence is believed to be sufficient compensation for whatever pain and gentle things may have punished with it. (To be continued.)

P.S. (``And where are the ten lepers made clean and the other nine?" Our Lord only one returned to give... November 23, 1949)