TODAY THE NOVENA FOR THE RIGHT CHOICE OF A STATE OF LIFE AND FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD BEGAN. From now until the day the Easter vacation begins, you are asked to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion for these intentions. You may attend Mass and receive Holy Communion either in your own chapel or in the church. You ought also say the prayer given at the bottom of the adjoining column. Clip it and put it in your missal.

PRAYER FOR THE RIGHT CHOICE OF A STATE OF LIFE

Lord God, Father of us all, Who hast enriched with special graces the state of life that in Thy Providence Thou hast appointed for each of Thy children, and who hast promised a heavenly reward for the fulfillment of every duty resting upon us, deign we beseech Thee, to give all of us Thy special blessing, that our minds being enlightened and our wills strengthened, we may clearly know our vocation in life, courageously live in accordance with it, and, having persevered unto the end, may attain the crown of eternal life. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

TOMORROW, residents of SORIN, DILLON, and PANGBORN take their turn at making a half-hour of adoration in the Lady Chapel. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed daily from Noon until 4:45. On Wednesday, BADIN, HOWARD, and LYONS residents have the privilege.

BLOOD DONORS are still needed. It would help if we could have five donors this week.

ACADEMY AWARDS NIGHT

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PRAYERS. Deceased: Judge J. Elmer Peak, formerly of the Law School; Royal Higgins,'31; Robert L. Kehoe, '42; grandfather of Gordon DiRenzo, Off-Campus. Ill: Father of Donald Gehlhausen of Badin; Frank Guillot of Dillon; wife of Prof. Elton Richter, formerly of the Law School.
325 in Penn-Sheraton, Pittsburgh, Hear Vocations Plea

PITTSBURGH, Pa. (NC)—An unusual vocations weekend retreat was conducted for some 325 young men here.

The “monastery” was the plush Penn-Sheraton Hotel. The “cloister” was the upper floors of the 17-story structure. The “chapel” was a black marble encased ballroom. And the preacher was Bishop John J. Wright of Pittsburgh.

“Our retreat will have accomplished its mission,” Bishop Wright said, “if it impresses on each of you that you’re a man with a vocation, whatever that vocation may be.”

Many Kinds of Vocations

The Bishop defined a vocation as a “call, in the generous response to which the work of God Himself may depend.” He emphasized that there are other vocations besides those to religious life.

“Every soul that comes into the world comes in as a result of the creative call of God, who has a job for us to do. It is our duty to find out what that job is, whether it be surgeon, policeman, teacher, artist, civil servant, tradesman, craftsman, soldier or priest,” the Bishop said.

“For once people get the idea that they have an individual vocation in life, then we’ll have more priests, more Sisters and men and women with a sense that they are working for eternal life, not just drifting about making a living.”

The Bishop urged the young men to analyze if they have a vocation to the priesthood. But he told them not to expect any cosmic signs.

“Will you hear voices from heaven?” he asked. “Well if you do, speak to your doctor before you speak to me. Will you have any enraptured, warm glow? I doubt it. The call to the priesthood isn’t that sort of thing.”

He suggested that in exploring the possibility of a priestly vocation youths ask themselves these questions:

“Can you talk intelligently? If you can, then you can preach.

“Are you reasonably generous and patient with people? Do you give a hoot about the other fellow?

“Are you decently chaste in your mind? If there are any imperfections, are they such as a man can handle?

“Have you a generous, manly determination to cooperate with the grace of God?

“Do you have a love of study? I’m not speaking of scholarship necessarily, but are you disposed to do the work of study?

“Can you conceive of a cause greater than yourself?”

A prospective priest will answer in the affirmative, he said. Bishop Wright stressed that there is nothing mystical about a vocation to the priesthood. “All one has to do is say to himself, ‘What do I wish to do with my life? Am I sufficiently generous to devote my life to Jesus Christ? Does anyone who ought to know agree with me that I have a vocation?’”

THE FOLLOWING REMARKS are among some of the best we’ve seen on the subject of a vocation to the priesthood. There are pertinent not only for Pittsburhgers but for all of you during these nine days of prayer for vocations to the priesthood.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTLY AND RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS

“Why stand ye here all the day idle? Go ye also into the vineyard; Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that He send forth laborers into His harvest.”

LET US PRAY

O, God, Who dost not desire the death of a sinner, but rather that he be converted and live, grant, we beseech Thee, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin and of all the saints, an increase of laborers for Thy Church, who, cooperating with Christ, may give themselves and generously spend themselves for the salvation of souls, through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son Our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in union with the Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen.