

Vocation Prayers In 'Letter' Phase

Usually, when a person offers prayers and sacrifices for some special intention, he keeps quiet about it: the matter is between him and God.

Father Gerald T. Connor wants that changed, just for this weekend. He wants people to devote prayers and sacrifices to the strengthening of religious vocations, and more than that, he wants them to tell about, in writing. Such messages are a source of encouragement the year around, says Father Connor, to students preparing to be priests or Brothers or Sisters.

Last week, seminarians and postulants took over the pulpits of about 70 parishes to ask the people for spiritual and moral support.

This is the weekend, Sept. 21-

22, when the commitments will be gathered, in churches throughout the diocese. Formal letters are not expected, Father Connor has pointed out, and the messages need not be signed.

The first such letter campaign last year yielded more than 10,000 commitments, not the least of them one-liners from school children who resolved to be good, to make their beds, always to say their morning prayers. From their elders came offers to fast, to recite the rosary, to attend weekday Masses, to spend time in prayer and meditation.

Many people told Father Connor that they would pray for vocations and offer sacrifices, but those who wrote provided lasting inspiration: their letters were read over and over again, Father Connor said.



New Arrival

Photos by Susan McKinney

Becket Hall Seminarians look on as Father Hemple, rector, left, and Carl Miner, right, in charge of maintenance, put the finishing touches on a cross which has recently been relocated on the seminary grounds. The statue, originally mounted on an outside wall of St. Andrew's Seminary [now the Pastoral Center], was the gift of Father Louis Hohman's father. Looking on are Father Hohman's sister, Mrs. Donald Werner, and their mother, Mrs. Louis Hohman.



Richard Brown and Dennis Kauffman stand at the right in this group of newcomers to the Congregation of St. Basil. The others, from the left, are Victor Deglio, Baltazar Jiminez, a medical doctor from Mexico who will profess first vows next month, and Philip Dupuis.

First Vows Professed

Two Rochesterians completed their Novitiate Year with their first profession of vows on Sunday, Sept. 8, in the chapel at the Basilian Fathers' residence, 402 Augustine.

Dennis Kauffman and Richard Brown were two of four who professed the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

The vows were received by the Very Reverend James T. Hanrahan, CSB, Superior General. Also witnessing the vows were Father Howard Keon, CSB, the novice master, and fifteen other concelebrants at the Mass. Families and friends attended. Father Stephen Martin, Superior of the Basilian Fathers at Aquinas, delivered the homily.

Dennis Kauffman, a graduate of Aquinas Institute and of St. John Fisher College, taught for one year at Andean High School in Gary, Ind., before entering the novitiate in September, 1973. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Kauffman of Lakeview Park. He has been assigned to St. Basil's College to pursue his theological degree before ordination to the priesthood.

Richard Brown, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Abram Brown of Traver Circle, is a graduate of St. John Fisher College and St. Bernard's Seminary. He has been assigned to the Aquinas faculty as an English teacher.

Also professed were Phillip DuPuis from Windsor, Ontario, and Victor Deglio, a native of Ossining.

RESPONSE

Have You Made Your Pledge

to the

Prayer Campaign for Church Vocations

"He said to His Disciples—the harvest is rich, but the laborers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send laborers to His harvest."

MATTHEW 9:37

Last year, those young men and women studying for the religious life were strengthened, encouraged and inspired by more than 10,000 letters written by people throughout the diocese expressing their support.

The letters emphasized the importance of Church vocations to the total Christian community. And they fulfilled Christ's request to pray to the Lord of the harvest.

Because of the heartwarming and wide response to the appeal, it is being repeated this year on September 15. Liturgy at Masses today will center around vocations.

Everyone is asked to offer prayers and sacrifices supporting those giving themselves to this consecrated life. Such intentions should be written in letter form and returned during Masses on September 22.

The letters will then be forwarded to Father Gerald Connor, diocesan director of vocations, for distribution to the students as was done last year. The young men and women emphasized that reading the letters was an edifying and inspiring experience.

MAKE A PLEDGE OF PRAYERS FOR
VOCATIONS — IN WRITING

Reverend Gerald T. Connor
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