

### THE STUDENT VOCATION

What is a vocation? A vocation is a way of life which God has chosen for us to come to Him. Therefore, the trades of carpenters, brick layers, engineers, etc., are the ways of life, which God has chosen for these respective laborers to become more Christ-like. It is very often a big mistake on the part of students to believe that student life is not a vocation. On the contrary, it is a vocation—and very much so: because it is the calling of God by which a student is to reach a higher degree of sanctity, while attending college. It is true that this vocation may be provisional or temporary as far as the individual student is concerned, rather than permanent, but the fact remains, there is a student vocation.

The student vocation is, first of all, a disinterested search for truth; second, a preparation for one's future profession. It is the only time during one's whole life, when he can devote himself entirely to a disinterested search for truth. A student should have a love of all truth, physical, mathematical, and philosophical. The search for truth should be the primary aim of the student. The preparation for one's future profession has its place in the student vocation too, but God comes before a profession. Only an appreciation of student life, as a vocation, can determine whether or not the student has an attitude of love of all truth.

The student's spiritual life is the primary factor in the student vocation. The spiritual life of a student cannot be developed apart from his daily life. If a student tries to develop his spiritual life apart from his daily life, he is in danger of secularism. Does religion have any effect on every day life at a Catholic College? If religion does not have any effect on the life of a student, he is separated from God. The life of a student should be so integrated that prayer, contemplation, and action, lead him to God. In order for these three aspects to lead a student to God, they must be supernaturalized by Sanctifying Grace. The first duty of everybody is to attain sanctity. The student, as well as all others, should make use of the proper means to reach sanctity. Therefore, a student should have his prayers, studies, and play, supernaturalized by Sanctifying Grace.

A student who happens to let himself fall into a rut, in regards to religion, and every day life, will be able to elevate himself, as well as all others, by doing what Peter Mardyck did for his fellow men in France. Peter realized he was not striving for perfection, and that he was not do-



ing all he could to help his fellow men. This prompted him to action. He began to strive for perfection, and to influence his fellow men to do the same. Soon Peter had many followers, and they were good soldiers in Christ's army. Although their work seemed useless and very disappointing at times, they strove on with that zeal and conviction that the apostles of Christ had. Finally they were successful. They succeeded in Christianizing a large factory in France. If the student applied this zeal and love of fellow men to the student life, all things in the student life would be restored in Christ. Then would the three characteristics of a student be evident. The true student is one who desires to know the truth, is one who is perserving in his pursuit of truth, and one whose heart is free from guile, prejudice, and jealousy. He will be able to think and act as a Catholic should; and he will be conscious of his life as a student. On graduation day, the men of the graduating class would be men who realized their vocation as students, and they would be men who, "are properly taught, properly motivated, and properly trained to do the right thing, the Christian thing, in the right way, the Christian way."

—JAMES LARKIN '54

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### THE GREAT CALAMITY

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What does a fellow usually do with a three day's beard? If he does not chance to be a sailor, or if the growth is not exactly appealing, at least to others, he cuts it off. Such conditions dictated that I shave. Since my stubbles might well serve as barbs for a wire entanglement to delay advancing Chinese Communists, I get the best results from a straight razor.

It was Wednesday afternoon and everyone was quiet with the exception of Tommy who was "ack-acking" all over the place as he brought down the largest elephants with his anti-aircraft gun. He always made sure to announce his conquest by toppling a chair or anything that was "toppeable". Maggie strained her auditory nerves to follow the soap opera which at that time was being screamed from the radio, harmonizing with Tommy and his falling elephants. It was vital that Maggie be there when Jim bowed slowly—occupying the whole of three days—and kissed the wart on Faye's nose. Perhaps there was a background of soft music but our radio didn't pick that up.

This was the atmosphere into which I brought myself and my shaving set. How could I ask Tommy to tone it down to a yell when the dear boy was merely expressing him-