

THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULETIN VESTAL, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY

BE A RECRUIT FOR JESUS

We have all seen the commericals on television that the Armed Forces use to get recruits. They are alluring appeals to the young men and women of our land. They want people to enlist. They show all the advantages fo life in the service – travel, good pay, medical service, insurance, pension, specialized training, and the like. But nothing is said of the hardships, the drilling, studying, discipline, loneliness and above all the danger.

When our Lord wanted to get recruits into the Church. He did just the OPPOSITE. *“Whoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and come and follow Me,”* Christ said. That was His invitation to every man, woman, and child who would become a disciple of His. Some people think that these words are addressed only to prospective priests, but a careful reading of the text shows He was talking to ALL who would follow Him.

Christ told His listeners that to be a real Christian was bound to cost something. Jesus calls us to deny ourselves of that which will rob us of ETERNAL JOY. Realize that there are passing pleasures of sin and consider the greater treasures that Christ offers. A person must deny his whold self, including all of his natural impulses and motives.

The process of denial is to humbly submit your will to God above. It means to say “NO” to yourself and to say “YES” to God. This may be a frightening thought. But remember, our Lord is there with open arms, willing to love, and embrace us all,