

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
January 5, 1953

Robert Smithe, R. I. P.

The happy Holiday Season had just begun when word was received here at school that Robert Smithe, of 315 Sorin Hall, had been killed in an automobile accident in his home city of Rockville Center, N.Y. As a member of the Notre Dame family, he deserves a rich remembrance in your prayers -- as do his parents in their grief at the loss of their son who was on the verge of entering upon his career. We don't question the Wisdom of God in these matters; we do ask for the strength to be resigned to His Will.

In Retrospect.

If you had a happy Christmas vacation, thank God for it. Over the world it wasn't so pleasant for many. In Yugoslavia, Christmas was decreed by governmental authorities as a "normal working day." In Kielce, Poland a number of priests were arrested for refusing to cooperate in an official drive to discourage the celebration of Christmas. Sometimes we appreciate the true value of our possessions only when someone begins to take them away from us.

New Year's Resolutions

Coming back to the campus to start the new year poses the eternal question of the wisdom of resolutions for the days to come. For some the occasion is little more than a joke; for others it is a matter of outlining a program that ends shortly thereafter. For solid progress and sane planning in this matter the Bulletin recommends the wise observation of Thomas a Kempis in his Following of Christ: "If we were to rid ourselves of one fault a year, we should soon be perfect men."

The Epiphany

Tomorrow we commemorate the arrival at Bethlehem of the Three Kings from the Orient -- the manifestation of Our Lord to the Gentiles. In the story of the Magi two elements are apparent: the grace of God inspiring the kings, plus cooperation on their part in that they kept their eyes on His star.

So many things in this world can obscure the clarity of the star that we find many going their own way, mapping their own course, getting side-tracked and bogged-down -- and never arriving at Truth. Beware of the Catholic who makes up his own religion; who interprets the teachings of the Church in the light of his own convenience. He has about as much chance of arriving at the Truth as did Herod at finding Our Lord. God will someday be very severe with those who, having a clear course mapped out for them, deliberately ignore His star!

Prayers Requested

Deceased: Daniel Buckley, brother of Brother Finbarr, C.S.C.; Thomas H. Coady, '92, the grandfather of George Sunkel of Howard; aunt of Milton Beaudine of Dillon; Bruz Clinnin, missing in Korea; William P. Moran, '41 (auto accident).

Ill: the young son of Bill Daly, '48 (Law); relative of William Klee, '51; Brother Melaric, C.S.C.; Hank McCormack, '52; Father Laskowski, C.S.C.; 3 Special intentions.