

"The Notorious Gang at Home."

Vacation is coming. You will go back home. What will that mean to you? From the experiences of others as set down in the last survey, we know the following facts:

1. Fifty-one per cent of the students from town and country parishes have better companions at school than at home;
2. Forty percent of the students from city parishes have more choice companions at school than at home;
3. One student says: "My companions at home are all drunkards";
4. Another says: "My religion has caused me to give up the notorious gang at home";
5. Another: "My companions here are so inspiring that I hate to leave";
6. Another wants the question asked: "What are you going to do during the Christmas holidays?"
7. Fifty frequent Communicants failed to receive Holy Communion during the Christmas holidays last year.

There is no doubt about this fact: The holiday season is a time of relaxation, and there is always a danger that it may become a pagan instead of a Christian celebration.

The Strategy of the Fight.

This can best be given in sotyr form:

Some years ago a student sought the advice of a wise friend, a layman. He said that he was in despair of making anything of himself. "I'm all right at school," he said, "but I know that when I get home with the gang it will be the same old story."

"How did it get started?"

"I live in a small town, near a county seat. During my high school years I used to get permission from the folks to see a show on Saturday night and return home the following day. Of course we never went to a show. We got started dissipating and now we can't stop."

"Bunk!" said the wise man. "In every gang there is a leader. You know who he is. You will find that the rest of the fellows are just as sick of dissipation as you are. Take your stand! The first time something is proposed which is contrary to your principles, say 'Nothing doing. I'm off that stuff.' They'll ride you, and try to goof you -- but one by one they will swing over to your side."

The day classes resumed the Wise man was visited by the Weak Sister. "Gee, it was great," he said. "I landed the whole gang. They weren't bad fellows. All they needed was some one to start them right."

"With the Help of God."

Try to keep up daily Communion at Home. At least receive four times. It may startle the natives, but the shock will do them good.