

Sweep Out the Corners.

You want to have the house looking right for Christmas. Sweep out the corners, dust off the pictures and look behind the radiators:

1. See whether you are nursing any petty vices that interfere with your spiritual growth;
2. Look over your Christmas dates and see whether your religion is a matter of habit or of fixed principles;
3. Drag your modest friends from their hiding places and see that they receive the Sacraments before they go home.

The Devil's Work.

There is a story of a monk in the Egyptian desert who used to be favored with a vision of the devils who operated in the monastery during the community prayers. Every monk had a little devil to distract him: one sat on a monk's eyelids and made them heavy; another whispered wicked thoughts into his monk's ear; a third blurred the lines of the book so that the words ran together, etc. Each monk had a little devil, and each little devil had a monk.

One day this monk went to the wicked city of Alexandria, of which he had heard so much. On his way he tried to imagine how many little devils there were in such a wicked city. At the gate he saw a solitary devil twirling his thumbs and yawning. "This must be a very important devil," he said to himself; "he must have charge of a legion." He put his doubt to the devil, who replied: "Stupid! I've got the easiest job this side of hell. I have charge of this city, yes, but I'm the only devil here. I don't have to work more than once a month. If the things die down a little I go in and stir up a fight and they're at it again. The devils don't have to work when there are so many wicked people around."

How Busy the Devil Is Lately.

The devil, like some of his contemporaries, has no use for Notre Dame. He has a good-sized force here, throwing sand in the eyes of the seniors when they pass by the Adoration lists (which were well filled in Sorin and Corby when these seniors were Freshmen); stuffing cotton in their ears when the bells ring in the morning; making them hungry and thirsty after midnight; getting dates for them during the Mission and on Benediction nights; putting them wise to the social standards of the pagans.

Notre Dame Does Not Need You.

Dr. Dollinger, of the University of Munich, one of the great apologists of the Nineteenth Century, once wrote to Pius IX for a dispensation from the priest's obligation of the Divine Office, alleging that his work in defense of the Church required his whole time. Pius IX replied "You need the Church more than the Church needs you." Dollinger died excommunicated.

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