

Religious Bulletin  
December 18, 1926

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Merry Christmas!

Go home with a smile in your heart and a song on your lips. Don't anticipate the Christmas night indigestion. One fellow did yesterday. He returned his Christmas card with this inscription: "Limit your correspondence to your friends. In defiance of the first principles of convention. I do not know you so why the (bad word) should you write to me."

The poor kid! The Scotch tell a mean story on a Jew who was teaching his son business caution. They say that he put little Izzy up on the table, stepped back a pace or two, and told him: "Come now, Izzy, jump into your father's arms." Izzy jumped, but his father stepped back another pace or two and let him land face down on the floor. His father picked him up and wiped away his tears, while he said: "Let this be a lesson to you, Izzy; don't ever trust even your own father."

The story must be true, and this must be the kid. He picks out his own spiritual father by coming to Notre Dame, and then he says, "I know you not;" and bites him with anonymous teeth. It takes deep tragedy to make a youth so bitter. One feels that he should be reached for his own consolation, so an ad will be inserted in the New-Times: "Come home and all will be forgiven."

Prayers.

An urgent special intention is recommended to your prayers now and during the holidays. Three persons who are ill have a claim to your charity.

Good Manners - 200 B.C.

Sirach, author of the book of Ecclesiasticus, gives the following prescriptions for your conduct:

"Art thou set at a great table? be not the first to set thy mouth upon it. Say not: there are many things which are upon it.

"Stretch not out thy hand first, lest being disgraced with envy thou be put to confusion.

"Be not hasty in a feast..... Use as a frugal man the things that are set before thee: lest if thou eatest much thou be hated.

"Leave off first, for manners' sake; and exceed not, lest thou offend. And if thou sittest among many, reach not out thy hand first of all: and be not the first to ask for drink.

"How sufficient is a little wine for a man well taught, and in sleeping thou shalt not be uneasy under it, and thou shalt feel no pain. Watching, and cholera, and gripes, are with an intemperate man: sound and wholesome sleep with a moderate man: he shall sleep till morning, and his soul shall be delighted with him.

"Wine was created from the beginning to make men joyful, and not to make them drunk. Wine drunken with moderation is the joy of the soul and the heart. Sober drinking is health to soul and body.

"Wine drunken with excess raiseth quarrels, and wrath, and many ruins. Wine drunken with excess is bitterness of the soul. The heat of drunkenness is the stumbling block of the fool, lessening strength and causing wounds." (Chapter 31, passim.)

Christmas Gift.

The collection tomorrow is for the Holy Cross missionaries laboring in Bengal.