

Religious Bulletin
December 20, 1926.

The Makings of a Merry Christmas.

Yesterday's Masses were something of a spiritual bouquet for Christmas -- particularly the eight o'clock Mass in town and the 8:30 Mass at Notre Dame. They were the happiest spiritual reunions held this fall, and the Prefect of Religion feels in his heart that he must thank those who made them so.

Pious souls are prone to be scandalized at the rather free use of statistics of spiritual happenings in vogue at Notre Dame. When they look not below the surface they see only a commercialization of a very sacred thing. Now the Bible uses statistics quite brazenly in referring to sacred things, and the Bible is a safe guide in proper hands. The Bible tells us, for instance, that five thousand men were fed with five loaves and two fishes; later on it tells us that five hundred disciples of Christ sat Him on one occasion in Galilee after His resurrection. Those who remained faithful were rewarded with this sight, and we conclude rather readily that only ten per cent at most of those who took part in the stupendous miracle that foreshadowed Holy Communion remained faithful.

The Bible tells us that on the night of the Resurrection ten of the Apostles received Holy Communion from the hands of their risen Saviour; it tells us that one of the Apostles was away, and that when he returned he confirmed himself in the sin of infidelity. It tells us also that a week later this disciple was where he belonged, in company with the other ten, and that on this occasion he received the grace of return to the faith he had rejected. These statistics (and no end of others that crowd the memory) are in no way disrespectful to the sacred things to which they are applied, and the Bulletin will continue to follow the example of the sacred writers with a prayer that this use may always be good, and never vain or frivolous.

Yesterday's Masses give us some very interesting statistics. By the look of the refectories, approximately forty-eight per cent of the students have already left for their vacations. The number of communicants at the Masses yesterday at Notre Dame was 64% of the number on the previous Sunday, and the number on the previous Sunday was larger than on any Sunday this year, with the exception of Sept. 27, the end of the Freshman Mission. The number of communicants at the 8:00 Mass at St. Joseph's was 74% of the previous Sunday's (which Sunday was the record Sunday of the year for the Masses in town).

A favor is now asked of the off-campus students. There were many at Holy Communion yesterday whose faces were quite unfamiliar. They will do themselves and others a good turn if they will sign the register of off-campus communicants today in the Scrin Hall chapel, under date of December 19. Yesterday was a memorable day, and a record of it should be kept.

The number of Holy Communions this fall will be about 109,000, an average of approximately 1156 a day. The average for the full months last year was 1026 a day. It is far from being one hundred per cent, but it is 1150 better than nothing. Returning to the Bible for authority once more we find that of the Apostles only one was a complete traitor, and only one was present at the foot of the Cross. We find that of ten lepers only one came back to give thanks, and he a Samaritan. We have much to be thankful for, and all in all we have the makings of a good Christmas.

Prayers.

John Bulfin and John Reager lost their fathers in the last two days; Jos. Morrissey of Radin Hall asks prayers for his father who is ill, and Jos. O'Bryan for his mother. Francis Havelick's grandmother is not expected to live. A special intention is recommended for Father Farley.