

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
December 18, 1934.

Holidays.

The word "holiday" in its roots, means "holy day."

That original significance should not change when the word is pluralized into holidays.

Many students feel that they ought to have a let-down, a great blow, a carnival during holidays--even during Christmas holidays.

Away back at the dawn of time, under God's fiat, creatures had their beginning, their birthday.

And you, a few years back, had your personal birthday, your beginning.

Well, the uncreated God, too, had a birthday. It was in the stable of Bethlehem 1934 years ago. Christmas is His birthday celebration.

You get out of your classes for two weeks' Christmas vacation, to honor Christ's birthday, to help Christ celebrate His birthday.

Christ isn't offended if you enjoy yourself, if you find rest and harmless recreation in celebrating His birthday.

But if your idea of "celebration" is to bring His sulphuric enemy into the party, in the form of mortal sin, you couldn't think up insult harder for Christ to bear.

You are master of your vacation. Exercise the mastery. Don't be helpless as a leaf on the high seas.

Don't do only what others do, just because they do it, without thought or plan of your own.

Don't fall for the cheap, dizzy stuff that college saps call whoopee. You are a Notre Dame man. Act the part.

Choose now the amusements and the companions that you can enjoy in the state of grace. Discard the rest.

Your parents will not disinherit you if you show practical love by spending a few nights at home.

Attend Mass and receive Holy Communion Christmas morning in the spirit of Bethlehem, as you would have knelt at the Manger that fed a heart-starving world.

Go again the Sunday in between Christmas and New Year's, on New Year's morning (holy day of obligation, remember), and on the day that you return to the campus.

Come back here convinced that your education is meaning new growth and strength month after month. Vacation time is the test of your Catholic education.

If you can't spend these holidays like a Catholic gentleman you haven't made much headway.

Good-bye, and a Merry Christmas!

PRAYERS: Deceased, Rev. John Toth, old student; Patrick Murphy, grandfather of John Patrick Murphy (Off-Campus). Ill, Father Stapleton, brother of Bill Stapleton (Howard); mother of Bill Smullen (St. Els.). Four special intentions. Deceased:-- Father and sister of Dick Trent '28.