

(FOR THE CATHOLIC STUDENT AT NOTRE DAME)

Christmas Confessions
NOW. At P.M. Masses,
or eve. in Sorin and B-P

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
December 17, 1943

Midnight Mass Xmas.
Xmas dinner invitations
from So. Bend homes.
See Chaplain.

The "Vacation".

One or the other. You can honor God and our Blessed Lady by your actions over the two day Christmas week end. You can go home or visit friends and participate in good conversation, delectable meals, entertaining shows, a pleasing "date" and a satisfying dance.

Or you can go to hell.

You will do pretty much what you have already planned to do on this trip away from the campus. It is not the complete truth to say that Our Lord wants you to leave in the state of grace (His friendship), and to return in it. He earnestly desires that you return not only in grace but with a long list of good works.

Pack your travelling bag with a large supply of generosity. If you are going home, give more time to the folks than to lady admirers. And if your mother, filled with justifiable pride, wishes to show you off to the relatives and friends, be kind enough to please her. You will leave an impression wherever you will go. The medal and the identification tag around your neck indicate that you are a Catholic. Live your Faith.

Be a model of patience. If the kid brother hangs around you, don't show your temper and proceed to strangle him even mildly. He and others expect to find in you the qualities that make an exemplary officer. Don't disappoint them. The conductor on the train cannot be blamed for the poor travelling conditions. And don't talk too loud about the profs and the food. Civilians will overhear you and will wonder why you have gained the fifteen pounds they have lost by rationing. Politeness is charity making life more livable.

Christmas on Guadalcanal -- 1942

The high point of your Christmas must be your Christmas Mass and Holy Communion. For then you will meet your Savior, the Word made Flesh. At His feet you can express your love and gratitude for His blessings and receive a new outpouring from His hands for yourself and for your friends. Last year at Guadalcanal, the Service men prepared for the coming of the Prince of Peace with joyous spirit. The following are excerpts from a letter a soldier wrote from the Island last Christmas day. The letter was printed in the Boston Herald last January.

"The Mass last night sounded grand...Counting carols, the Mass, and other hymns, we sang 18 different numbers. The altar was simply beautiful,... Jim Milano spent the entire day with a group of men wiring the beautiful red flowers of the native Bougainville trees to the backboard and the front of the altar... All around the chancel were native flowers...

"We shined up the shell cases, and the six candelabra stood at either side of the crucifix, their brass casings shining in the flickering candlelight like pure gold...On each side of the altar was a small candelabra of 13 small candles set in 50-caliber shell cases...The censer and boat were made of 37 mm. shell cases cut in half...

"We couldn't beg, borrow or steal a monstrance for Benediction, so I made one out of a corned beef can and a couple of pieces of metal,... the coppered inside of the can giving a beautiful ray effect...I've little left of what I received, having given it all away last night, but my heart is full... As I received last night I was thinking of you all, and praying to God to keep and guard you until I return home..."

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