

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
January 4, 1950

"Happy New Year"

Last year is gone. You can't re-live it. The mistakes you made have been made forever. The time you lost has been lost forever. The graces you rejected by neglecting daily Mass and Communion have been lost forever too.

On the other hand, the progress you made in your studies, the progress you made in overcoming bad habits, the progress you made in fraternal charity--is the progress that has not been lost.

This new year provides you with new opportunities. Begin now to study. Begin now to take fuller advantage of the spiritual opportunities to conquer self and to let God conquer you.

Next Friday First Friday.

Don't wait until Thursday night or Friday morning to get to confession. It will be physically impossible to hear more than a limited number of confessions at either time. Take advantage of confessional opportunities tonight.

Sign up for a period of adoration--one-half hour. The lists are posted on the Bulletin board in your hall. Make amends this year for last year's neglect of First Friday adoration. It begins 8:00 a.m. and closes with Benediction at 5:00 p.m.

Little Christmas.

Friday is not only First Friday but the Feast of the Epiphany, a major feast of the first class in the Church. December 25th the Church celebrated Christ's manifestation to the Jews through His physical birth. On Epiphany, or Little Christmas, the Church celebrates Christ's manifestation to the Gentiles through the Three Wise Men led by the star to the stable at Bethlehem.

Holy Family Sunday.

In your first letter home this week remind the folks that next Sunday is the Feast of the Holy Family. Suggest that all receive Holy Communion for one another on that day. Do your share to keep bright in your own home the Christian ideals on which family life must be based if it is to endure.

MERCY-KILLING IS MURDER!

You are going to read a lot about the case of Dr. Sander. The controversy about the morality of MERCY-KILLING will be current and top news. For full details about the Catholic position and the position of all decent, God-fearing persons consult your Catholic newspapers.....But remember this. THE END DOES NOT JUSTIFY THE MEANS. According to both American and English civil law, so-called MERCY-KILLING is still considered as simple murder. According to the natural law it is murder. According to the divine positive law it is murder....Legalized euthanasia would attack man's most primary and fundamental right to life; it would destroy the entire moral fabric of our civilization. Hitlerism yesterday and Stalinism today are based upon the immoral principle that the end does justify the means. If euthanasia is ever legalized in this country, then the last place of refuge for the incurably sick will be the Catholic hospital whose moral code states and will forever state: EUTHANASIA, IN ALL ITS FORMS IS ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN. It is forbidden because the Fifth Commandment states: THOU SHALT NOT KILL....The incurable are not criminals. Neither the State nor the doctor has absolutely any authority to destroy the life of the innocent. To condone MERCY-KILLING is to sanction the immoral principle--the end justifies the means. Setting this dangerous precedent will lead to chaos.