

Did you send Jim Aoki a
Christmas card?

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Make it a point to receive
the day you leave for home.

What? Here Again!

That's the way time comes and goes. One season of the year passes by too quickly for most of us--Christmas. No other time of the year is more primed with joy and happiness. Catholic, Protestant and Jew forget themselves and spend their waking hours thinking of others. Just as God forgot Himself and thought of us at Bethlehem.

This high-spirited morale of Christmas comes from a moral--it is more blessed to give than to receive. All one has to do is remember Christmas to remind himself that unselfishness produces happiness, whereas selfishness is its bane.

A clear-cut definition of love is not an easy one to find, but the gifted St. Thomas outlined its general dimensions when he declared that "to love a person is to wish him well." How true at Christmas time is this love! We forget ourselves and wear ourselves out thinking and doing for others.

It is God-love, this giving of self 100% to God that produced the joy of the saints. Remember this when it comes to your spiritual and corporal works of mercy. And when you kneel at the Crib in spirit with the shepherds, what will you have to give to Our Lord? More of your mind? More of your heart? More of your service? He gives Himself to you in proportion as you give yourselves to Him. This mutual self-giving involves an exchange. But "what exchange shall a man give for his soul?"

"Can You Keep Christmas?"

December Reader's Digest quotes from Henry Van Dyke's "Six Days of the Week." Read it carefully:

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellow men are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness--are you willing to do these things even for a day?

Then you can keep Christmas.

----- Going Home.

You are going back home for the next two weeks. Your spiritual training is to be put to the test. Back to your homes--and the truly Catholic home is the greatest source of inspiration for good that can come into your life. But you are also going back into the world--some of you, into your social set, into as brazen a paganism as St. Paul found in Rome. Make no mistake about that.

What are you going to do about it? Are you going to be loyal to the mother and father who brought you into this world, and avoid the things that you know would break their hearts if they knew of them? What's more important: Are you going to stay on God's side and seek His help in the Sacraments, keeping away from the occasions of sin which you know from experience and hearsay are dangerous for your soul? Are you going to remember that your association with Notre Dame, whether you like it or not, puts you on your honor to be worthy of sonship of the Mother of God? Watch yourself!