

BLOOD DONORS -- Report to
the Prefect of Religion, in
Room 117, Dillon tonight, or..

University of Notre Dame
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..tomorrow. There is an urgent
need of blood by Notre Dame
men at this time.

The First Crib

Three years before he died, St. Francis of Assisi was inspired to construct a model of the Bethlehem scene. He fashioned the manger that the birth of our Saviour might be brought home more intimately to all the faithful.

To one of his closest friends, St. Francis said: "Make haste and prepare what I tell you. For I would make a memorial of that Child Who was born in Bethlehem; and in some sort behold with bodily eyes His Infant hardships: how He lay in a manger of hay, with the ox and ass standing by. To this end, therefore, go and prepare a crib, furnished with straw, and bring an ox and ass that it may resemble Christmas."

Then on Christmas Eve, after the crib was ready, all the followers of St. Francis, along with the people of the nearby towns, marched to the hills where the crib was prepared, singing carols on the way, like the angels who sang: "Glory to God in the highest," on the first Christmas Day.

St. Francis stood before the manger overcome with tenderness and filled with joy. He himself preached to the people in most touching words concerning the birth of the Saviour of the world.

Every visit you make to the crib at Christmas time will do something to you. The scene is a means by which the Infant Christ will teach you something new and wonderful about Himself. Make more than one visit to the crib when you are home.

A Little Lesson In English

You may question this: but when our greeting, "Merry Christmas" was first used, the word, Merry, did not mean "joyful, hilarious, gay, etc." as it does today. In those days, it meant "blessed, peaceful, pleasant," expressing spiritual, and internal peace of mind and heart, rather than earthly happiness. It was thus used in the phrase, "Merry England."

The well known carol, God rest you merry, gentlemen, is an excellent example of the original meaning of "merry." The position of the comma clearly shows the true meaning (i.e., that the word is not an adjective describing "gentlemen"), and therefore is not, "God rest you, joyful gentlemen." Rather it has the meaning, "God rest you peacefully, gentlemen."

Your Speech and Conduct During Vacation

On one occasion, Lincoln made the sage observation: "I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives; and so live that the place will be proud of him."

That should give a fairly adequate idea of what is expected of you. Enough said.

About Ember Days

Tomorrow, Friday, and Saturday are Ember Days. You are exempted from the fast and abstinence (except for Friday abstinence) as long as you remain on campus. Even here you must substitute some other forms of penance. If you are away from Notre Dame on Saturday, you will be permitted meat at the principal meal only. Christmas Eve is a day of fast and abstinence for everyone, even here at Notre Dame.

JUNIORS and SENIORS -- Please return the Religious Survey blanks, whether they are filled out or not. We need them desperately.

SOPHOMORES -- Thanks for your wholehearted cooperation on First Saturday Devotions.