

# RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

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## Peace on earth to men of good will

Peace is the keynote of the antiphons that surround the hymn of the Savior's message to mankind. At His birth the Heavenly choirs heralded His coming with the song: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will." In His last discourse to the apostles He recalled the joyful hymn of His birth with the words: "Peace is my bequest to you, and the peace which I give is Mine to give." Finally, his greeting to His apostles after the Resurrection was: "Peace be to you!"

Peace, then, is Christ's bequest to men. Why, then, in all the Christian era have there been wars and rumors of wars, hot wars and cold wars? The answer is found in the very words themselves. The angels heralded a conditioned peace -- "peace to men of good will," not to all men, but only to those who accept His teachings with a good heart and live according to His precepts.

As the Jews were mistaken in expecting a Messiah who would restore their earthly kingdom, so those who expect an external tranquility in worldly affairs are mistaken. The kingdom He came to establish is not of this world, and the peace He brought is in the hearts of men. In fact it was the Prince of Peace Who also spoke these words: "Do not imagine that I come to bring peace to the earth; I come to bring a sword, not peace."

The Savior's promise of peace announced by the angels at His birth and the bequest of peace made on the eve of His passion is the peace that

results from doing His Holy Will, the peace that springs from the security of union with Him, yes, the peace that comes from taking up the cross and following Him step by step from the cold, dirty, stinking stable of His birth, along the rough, dusty roads of Palestine, up the stony, steep hill of Calvary.

The warm feeling of benevolence that characterizes Christmas is the beginning of peace. It is genuine and deep rooted when it springs from union with God through sanctifying grace.

May your Christmas be filled with this peace which is the promise and bequest of the Divine Savior to all men of good will -- among whom surely should be all sons of Notre Dame, His Mother.

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**A Sobering Thought** Not infrequently, it seems, someone of the Notre Dame family meets with disaster on the trip home for the Christmas holidays. It could happen again this year, especially considering the hazardous condition of the highways. Make it a point to leave the campus in the state of grace. Be prepared for any eventuality.

Confessions will be heard: In Sacred Heart Church -- during 5:10 Mass today  
during 11:30 Mass tomorrow


(No confessions Saturday night)

In hall chapels -- tonight and tomorrow morning (see hall chaplain's schedule)

In Dillon and Stanford-Keenan chapels -- tonight and tomorrow morning at the sound of the buzzer

**Ember Days** Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday of next week are Ember Days, and your Notre Dame dispensation does not follow you home. If you are over 21, you must fast on all three days. For all, Wednesday and Saturday are days of partial abstinence (meat permitted only at the principal meal). Friday is as usual a day of total abstinence.

**In Your Charity** Please pray for the following. Deceased: aunt of William F. Donohue of Dillon; brother-in-law of Father John Scheberle of Badin. Ill: Joseph I. O'Neill, '37, University trustee; Father Joseph Payne, C.S.C., pastor of Little Flower parish; Carol Kennedy, St. Mary-of-the-Woods student (still critical).

**A Parting Note** When Merry was first joined to Christmas it meant "blessed, peaceful, pleasant," expressing spiritual and internal peace of mind and heart, not gaiety or hilarity. In the carol, "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen," the position of the comma clearly shows the true meaning: "God Rest Ye Peacefully, Gentlemen." So.....

**A MERRY CHRISTMAS**