

1 1 1 The BELLES 1 1 1 OF SAINT MARY'S

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SAINT MARY'S AT CHRISTMAS

If one would imagine herself transported ten years into the future reminiscing over the events of the past, among her schoolday experiences which would stand out most vividly in her mind would be Christmas at Saint Mary's. Those here years ago and those here now will agree that not excepting the excitement of matriculation and even the impressiveness of graduation, they remember most particularly those last few days in December when the Christmas spirit reigned at Saint Mary's.

"The March of the Wise Men" on the last Sunday night, the Christmas dinner, the wonderful pageant, and last of all the seniors carolling early Saturday morning are the experiences which every girl treasures in her schoolday memories, and which in later years lead many back to Saint Mary's at Christmas time. Perhaps the thought of going home tends to create the atmosphere of excitement, but the school itself creates a certain joyfulness that prevails everywhere. Every student is truly sorry when the celebrations, whether spiritual or festive, are over, and those who return to Saint Mary's the next year come with the anticipation of Christmas week utmost in their minds.

When, in those wee small hours of the morning, everyone sets out homeward, and when on Christmas Eve she experiences with her friends or family the feeling that only Christmas can give, may she thank God, not only for her home and the joy of being there, but for the privilege of experiencing *Saint Mary's at Christmas*.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

There is no happiness quite so universally complete as going home, nothing quite like it. There is no joy as great as returning to a friendly "home" town, to the house, the room, the Mother and Dad, all the folks which are home.

Since there is so little time during vacation and so much to do, the prodigal daughter should make it her responsibility to help make the Christmas holidays as gay and as happy a time as possible. After a day or two at home it will be easy enough to slip into the old

routine and the slovenly habit of depending on every member of the household when we have to be ready for the tea dance at the club by five o'clock.

This would be a splendid time to resolve to stop making the family's life a hectic one while there with them; in other words, to declare and prove independence. The loving daughter has been away at college for almost one . . . two years (with apologies). Besides book "larnin'," we hope she has learned also the virtue of being independent, one capable of taking care of herself not only when it is time to be ready for a tea dance, but also in all duties that should be her own.

Vacation—going home! They can both be nigh a hundred times sweeter because the daughter has grown up. She is no longer a child but an adult, free, independent, capable, and dependable. You will be so proud of you, but the family, they are the ones you are really going to impress!

"SANTA IS SUCH A BUSY MAN . . ."

A little boy woke up and slipped quietly out of his shabby bed. It was Christmas morning, but he knew that it would be merely an ordinary day. His mother the night before had explained, "Santa is such a busy man, children, that he might not have time to visit everybody." Remembering this, he crept sadly into the other room and was quietly putting a few pieces of wood in the stove when he saw it there on the hearth, the big red top he wanted and beside it some toys for his brothers and sisters. Other children might have scorned such a meager gift, but to Bobby it meant that there was a Santa Claus; that he had not forgotten them; and that Christmas was a "special day." It was only a few seconds before the whole family was aroused to share his happiness.

Some thoughtful person, instead of throwing away these toys or leaving them idle on a dusty shelf, had given them to a family whose whole happiness depended on the kindness of others. Saint Mary's students will have a particularly good opportunity to round up old clothes that they discover as they pack for vacation. They may also contribute to the happiness of many little boys and girls. Tonight after the party leave the toys in boxes for that purpose in the gymnasium and thwart the fears of those children who might otherwise on Christmas morning have to be consoled with "Santa is such a busy man . . ."

DO NOT BE IGNORANT

The average student at Saint Mary's has a fairly thorough knowledge of the events, theories, and opinions of the past and even of fairly recent years, as recorded in her history, economics, and English books. She can discuss fairly intelligently the Renaissance or the *laissez faire* policy; she is familiar with the life and views of Shakespeare; and knows the fundamental desires of man. Yet the same girl who can answer these questions is often at an utter loss when asked to discuss the war in Spain, Roosevelt's economic policy, or Stalin's point of view. She, who comes to school to acquire knowledge, in devoting herself conscientiously to one phase, neglects entirely the other.

"But we never have any time" is the usual answer when one is questioned about this neglect. Yet five minutes spent each day over the local newspapers or a half an hour a week with the *New York Times* would at least keep a student's mind from being a perfect blank concerning current events.

"I'm just not interested in current events" is another