



Fr. Matt's Musings June 30, 2017

Vacation or Holiday

This weekend, millions of Americans will take advantage of the fourth of July holiday (on Tuesday) and go on vacation. In much of the English-speaking world, that same reality is referred to as holiday. We Americans vacate our lives in order to be able to relax. In addition, we have the shortest vacations in much of the developed world. Most Americans have two weeks of vacation; some have fewer days. I read that many Americans will have "staycations" this year. For financial or other reasons, they will be off work but will vacation at home. Others will not vacation at all.

In France, the average vacation is five weeks. In Germany, it is six weeks. Even God rested on the seventh day in the first creation account. Vocabulary is important. Holiday seems to be a more holistic term. It is closely related to holy, and what a wonderful way to look at our need to rest, relax, and enjoy. Instead of skipping vacation days, making them holidays might help us to see the value of rest, relaxation and rejuvenation. Enjoy and embrace your summer holidays. You deserve the time to enjoy God's beautiful creation, the company of family and friends and maybe even freedom from cell phones and email. Now that is truly a holiday.

Live Jesus!

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