

Mothers' Day Confessions.

On several occasions this year you have shown remarkable intelligence in the use of the Sacrament of Penance. In anticipation of exceptional crowds warnings have been issued, and these warnings have been heeded -- not in every case, but so frequently that there is hope that the millenium will yet be reached in this matter.

Here is another warning. The number of Communion next Sunday will be very large. The number of confessions to be heard between now and then is also very large. Those who are wise and those who are thoughtful of others will go to confession before Sunday morning. The Sorin chapel is attended practically all day (except during the first and second class periods on Tuesdays and Thursdays), and the basement chapel after supper and the hall chapels at 7:30 offer additional opportunities.

Mothers' Day Cards.

These are on sale at the News Stand, the Book Store and the Candy Store. Fill in the spiritual bouquet with the number of offerings you have made for your mother, and the ones you will make before the end of the year. -- But if you make promises, keep them.

Prayers.

Tom Kerrigan asks prayers for a deceased cousin. Francis X. Carmody, once a professor of elocution at Notre Dame, died recently. Karl Kaschewski's mother is ill. Robert Neydon's father, who has been ill for some time, suffered a relapse recently, and has been taken to a hospital for observation.

Charity.

The horse for Fr. Goodall has finally been put together and is now browsing in the rice fields (if that's where they browse in Bengal). Contributions for our patient in New Mexico now total \$293.00. Offerings for flowers for the May Altar in the Sorin chapel have come to an average of about a dollar a day.

Questions.

88. Please give me a full argument for the Immaculate Conception, so that I may convince a non-Catholic.

- Ans. 1. The definition of the Church would mean nothing to a non-Catholic, but the constant tradition of the Church might carry some weight;
2. Ask him if the salutation of the Angel Gabriel (recorded in his Gospel of St. Luke), "Hail, full of grace," would be strictly true if the Blessed Virgin had ever been under original sin;
3. Ask him whether it would not be within the power of God, and eminently fitting that His Mother, Mary, be created in as pure a state as Eve, the mother of the race.

Remember that the Immaculate Conception means the preservation of the Blessed Virgin, from the first instant of her being, from all stain of sin, original and actual. If your friend understands it to mean the Virgin Birth of Christ (that Christ had no human father), please say so. That problem will be handled if you wish.

89. For two years I have been away from the Sacraments because I am afraid I will make a bad confession, a fear I have always known; and I haven't a proud moral record. What would you advise?

Ans. Come in for an interview, which will be as secret as confession. If at the end of that you are still afraid of making a bad confession, a Mass will be said for you. That fear can be pulled out by the roots at one sitting, and it will leave forever. It is best done by letting the priest make your confession for you -- and he can. If there's one thing a priest knows besides Theology, it's human nature.