

General Communion
Sunday for
OUR MOTHERS

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
May 6, 1932.

First Friday
Benediction
7:00 and 7:30

God Bless Our Mothers.

Mother's Day is an observance of recent years. The Catholic, through the Fourth Commandment -- "Honor thy father and thy mother" --- is taught to honor BOTH parents EVERY DAY of the year. Hence, this new celebration has little extra meaning. But it also has captivated individual Catholics and Catholic organizations more quickly than many an observance prompted by the Church. Those Catholic societies that observe it, should at least impart to their celebration a religious motivation for manifestations of sentiment and emotion, frequently none too sincere or constant.

The trend to utterly commercialize Mother's Day should be discountenanced by Catholic women and their organizations. Mothers should announce in advance to their children that they frown upon useless gifts, upon the purchasing of items of a luxurious nature. That, above all in times like the present, waste should be avoided. That works of mercy are more precious than mere presents even if tendered to one's mother. That mothers will be happier if they see their children practicing charity than buying withering flowers, gaudy cards, fancy candies, or useless trinkets for Mother's Day, just because it has become a fad.

Organizations of Catholic girls and women, determined to celebrate Mother's Day, will do well to arrange for Holy Mass or a general Communion for their mothers, and an address honoring Mary's Motherhood of the Divine Savior. By honoring Mary as the Mother of God, they will honor motherhood better than by setting up a program of a frivolous nature. Then let them extoll the dignified character of human motherhood as intended by God Himself.

Moreover, women should realize the insincerity of those who go into raptures over motherhood and Mother's Day while at the same time countenancing, if not indeed personally practicing, sinful birth control. Apparently all the emphasis laid on motherhood and love for mother in our country during the years that have lapsed since the institution of the annual observance has not hindered the growth of the criminal birth control movement and other sins against motherhood and parenthood.

In the same stores which loudly display gifts for Mother's Day -- to make money --- are found boldly posted advertisements all year round of literature and devices that debase, degrade and criminally frustrate the sacredness of that divinely instituted motherhood. And the incongruity and insult of such conduct on the part of such business men is not realized by the public. Individuals and organizations of Catholic women must help combat the insincerity which is at the bottom of such abominable practices.

Let us not be content to laud and consecrate motherhood for only one day in the year and have it trampled under foot and desecrated by thousands on all the other days of the year.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for our mothers in LIFE as well as at death, that they may not despise motherhood, disgrace its honor and dignity before God and men, to lose their souls at the end for cowardly deeds.

The Catholic Women's Union of Pittsburgh.

Prayers.

Lawrence Baldinger's infant son is ill. John Riccobono's brother is quite ill. Two deceased friends of students. An alumnus asks prayers for his mother who is ill. Two special intentions. Four thanksgivings for conversions (the total for the last Church Unity Octave is now ten - add your names for the Novena for Pentecost).