

(FOR THE CATHOLIC STUDENT AT NOTRE DAME)

Triduum for Mothers
starts Tues.

University of Notre Dame
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Leave for weekend in
the state of grace and
return in it.

Your Sorrowful Mother.

Your mother has always tried to present herself to you at her best, with a smile and a happy countenance. Mothers become so proficient in manifesting cheerfulness that their sons are liable to forget the other side of their lives, the sorrowful side.

You have been a great joy to your parents. Your dropping out of heaven into their home has added a new purpose to their life. But don't overlook the fact that you have been a source of sorrow to them, to your mother more than to your dad. Not that you have been malicious and deliberately troublesome; motherhood always involves a depth of sorrow even when the son is a saint, even when the son is God -- look at the Mother of Christ.

No son forgets his mother's sorrows. Little do you think of the day of your birth. There was physical suffering that day for your mother; there always is in childbirth. Of course she never told you about this, and she never told you about the wakeful, anxious hours she spent beside your crib and bed during your sicknesses. We take coughs, fever, mumps, measles lightly. They mean work for a mother and worry about possible ill after-effects.

Your first departure from your mother's apron strings brought pang to her heart. It was not easy to send you off to grade school, it hurt. In high school you were more able to care for yourself, but still you were in the world and in that period of life which makes or breaks a young man. You were now awaking to the attraction of the world, to girls, entertainment, liquor -- all stood up before you, and she worried and prayed. Of course, she did not bother you about her anxieties, unless you failed her, unless you took up bad companions, excessive drinking and unauthorized late hours. If your actions have ever driven your mother to tears, then you have more reason to be mindful of her sorrows.

The war has added to your mother's hours of worry. If you are a serviceman, or about to be one, your mother is thinking about the dangers ahead of you. War casualties have a meaning to her. She is proud of the star in her window, yet she fears that it may be a gold star some day. If you doubt about the dark side of a mother's life, ask your chaplain to show you letters from mothers whose sons have not written home for a month and more, who have stopped going to Sunday Mass or taken up with bad women, who have manifested discouragement over classroom deficiencies.

Yes, your mother is a sorrowful mother. A true son is not going to overlook this element in his mother's life. Next week, Friday, September 15, Catholics throughout the world will recall the sorrows of their Heavenly Mother and will pay homage and gratitude to her for suffering for her children. This feast offers the Notre Dame students an occasion to pay special homage to their earthly mother's sorrows.

Every student should feel obliged to honor his two mothers on the feast of the Seven Sorrows. There is no better expression of real filial devotion than by Mass and Holy Communion on the three days preceding the feast and on the feast itself. A letter home telling about this offering of Mass and Communion will give great consolation to your mother. It will lighten her heart to know that you think of her. Of course it will take sacrifice to be present at Mass. This is your chance to see the stuff you are made of.

PRAYERS: (deceased) cousin of John Bresnahan (Sor); friend of John Gutowski (Sor); mother of Larry Smith (Z); friend of Father Joseph Powers, C.S.C.; grandfather of John McLaughlin (Dil); cousin of Pete Ricciardi (B-P); Harry Green, A/S; father of Brother Jerome Francis, C.S.C.; grandmother of Brother Fernand, C.S.C., 4 Spec. Intentions.