

Tomorrow: Masses in Sacred Heart Church as on Sundays.

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Marian Year Begins Tomorrow

With the Solemn Mass at 9 in Sacred Heart Church, we formally open the Marian Year -- a year proclaimed by Pope Pius XII to commemorate the centenary of the definition of the Immaculate Conception. For centuries Christians have stood before this spotless one and cried out: "Thou art all fair, O Mary, and in thee there is no stain of original sin." Indeed, all generations have called her blessed, as she said they would.

The theological statement of this doctrine is chiseled, sharp, clear and definite:

"By a singular privilege, through the foreseen merits of her Divine Son, the Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the very moment of her conception, preserved free from original sin, and from its effects."

And yet, though she is sinless, she does not withhold pitying help from sinners. Men and women of Catholic instinct, training, and tradition, know this. The fact that they do know this keeps them from surrendering to a discouragement that mounts to despair when things go rough with them.

And if she is immaculate, she expresses beauty in equal measure with mercy. We cannot think of the wonder of her perfection without including beauty -- spiritual and physical. We reason that the beauty of her soul was reflected externally by the light in her eyes, by grace of movement, by charm of speech, and by a warmth in her smile. To all men of all times she has been the "Lovely Lady." Poets and painters, saints and sinners have ever found her so.

She is the one immaculate of our race! And so we follow the trail of her garments -- sometimes from afar, it is to be feared; but yet we follow, never losing that vision of beauty, we hope. And if we keep in the wake of her, she will stay for our hesitant, uncertain feet; and ultimately show us home!

Tomorrow, The Novena For Parents

Gratitude is the expression of a noble soul. Ingratitude is the mark of a pygmy--of a pygmy too small and selfish to see that he owes anything to anyone.

Some sons have been on the receiving end so long that they now take it for granted. They act as if there were an inviolable law according to which they must always receive.

Everybody owes them everything. They owe nothing to anyone.

The truth is that no one owes more to any human being than a son owes his parents.

Almost any normal boy, at times at least, feels keenly his obligation of gratitude -- the mere mention of father and mother and what they have been to him, brings tears of gratitude to his eyes.

Christmas is an ideal time to manifest this gratitude in a practical way. The Novena comes out of your own heart, and out of your own effort. Start tomorrow!

PRAYERS -- Deceased: father of Gerald Forrette of Badin (suddenly); mother of Fr. Maurice Powers, CSC; grandmother of Fr. Gene Burke, CSC; uncle of Lyle Stuart of Farley, Ill.; Harold Spurl, '30; Brother Flavius, CSC; 2 other sick people.

Tomorrow at 4:30 P.M. -- The Glee Club in Marian hymns at the Grotto.

Tomorrow at 5:00 P.M. -- Benediction for St. Mary's and Notre Dame in the Church.