
Welcoming May, This Marian Year

In his book, Calvary In China, Father Robert Greene, the Maryknoll missionary, takes time to point out a very significant observation in his trial:

"The intense hatred of the judge and his diabolical dislike for Our Lady scared me as nothing before ever had. I was weak, and felt very much alone, and I asked myself if this was what Communism really did to people -- the things they feared most, they hated most!"

The Greateatest Insult

May-Day has belonged to God's mother for many hundreds of years throughout the world. Therefore, it was precisely this day that Communists chose to dishonor God and His Mother. They appropriated the choicest hour that had been dedicated to their worst enemy -- Our Lady's Day.

Some years ago, Notre Dame men, like the Christophers, thought it was high time to restore this day to its rightful owner. They conceived the idea of a campus-wide public demonstration in honor of the Mother of God. And that's what we are going to do on Friday evening -- honor the Mother of God in a campus-wide, candlelight procession to the Grotto.

Our May-Day procession is student-planned, and student-directed. If you have a sense of love and loyalty to your fellowmen here, because of the common bond that binds you together in the family of Our Lady, you'll be in line Friday night. Your fellow students expect this much of you. Don't let them down.

If she is hated most by the enemies of God; then she should be loved most by us. It will depend upon you, then, whether or not we manifest in a fitting manner this love of God's Mother in this Marian Year. Let nothing interfere, then, with your participating in this tribute to Our Lady. Freshmen and architects who go dancing later, Friday evening, will edify their guests by bringing them to observe this particular moment of the Notre Dame way of life. Only at Notre Dame could an event like this take place in the life of university men. Last year, over 3000 campus residents participated. This year, we hope to have 100% participation. The entire ceremony will not take much over one-half hour. The Friday Bulletin will give you minute details of the ceremony.

During May-Day ceremonies, there is to be no other activity on the campus.

Novena For Mother's Day

Friday morning, we begin the novena for Mother's Day. Merchants have commercialized the occasion; but Notre Dame has surrounded it with something you cannot buy. Here we associate her with another Lady who had an illustrious Son. And so we send a gift that represents our best efforts -- a Novena. It is a little package that contains days of love and devotion, and effort on our part. This is the gift that can come from no one but you. And it will last forever, and do her the most good! The Prefect of Religion has provided an artistic little folder which tells her that you are offering nine Masses and Holy Communions for her -- out of gratitude for all she has done for you. You are to slip the folder into your letter to her on Mother's Day. You may pick up the Mother's Day folders at the pamphlet racks. Of all the people in this world, she deserves your best expression of gratitude. This is it!