

University of Notre Dame
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If You Love Her, Be There Tonight

"To Mary," said little Jacinta who saw and talked with Our Lady at Fatima, "to Mary the Lord has confided the peace of the world."

And Bishop Sheen told the Marian Rally in Washington: "I can tell you why there is not peace in the world. First of all, for the last few hundred years, our Christian world has, to a great extent, forgotten our Blessed Mother. And because we have forgotten her in our Western Civilization, we have to a great extent forgotten the divinity of her Divine Son."

It has always been true that the love of the Mother of God leads devotees to the love of her Divine Son. God, through the Immaculate Mother, at Fatima, has laid down peace terms for the world. Our Lady always appeared sorrowful during the Fatima apparitions -- twice clothed as Our Lady of Sorrows.

Seniors, Juniors, Sophomores, Freshmen -- if you have, since your arrival here, done anything unworthy of a Notre Dame man, then tonight at 6:45, in Sacred Heart Church is the night to begin the Novena in her honor, as part payment of your debt of reparation. Notre Dame men owe a debt to the Mother of God that can never be paid in full; she has been that good to us and to our school these 113 years.

But there is much more to this devotion than reparation -- there is our future before us. Like a mother bending over the bed of her dying son, Our Sorrowful Mother bends over a world in agony. There is tenderness in her motherly concern: sternness in her timely admonitions. But there is also an infinite compassion in her Immaculate Heart which suffers immeasurably more than words can tell.

Of course we have problems -- but let's not carry them alone, not when we have such a powerful advocate next to the throne of God! Give her a half-hour tonight. Start the semester with the blessing of God's Mother on your work and your life.

What the coming months will bring, we don't know. If the Blessed Mother be with us, there's little need to worry. Neither will our families need to worry, if we consign them to the care of Our Lady.

"What Christian heart," said Pius XII, "no matter how lukewarm and thoughtless, can resist the voice of Mary?" That's the same challenge that Father Brissette hurled at you, last Sunday, when he appealed to you to pray to Mary.

The Novena, tonight, is Notre Dame's answer to that challenge. Be there! Why? Because none of us is ever incurable, or impossible, or beyond repair or reparation -- if he has love for his mother. And if that love be for Mary Our Mother, he knows full well that Love of her "hath made brutes men, and men divine."

Tonight, when the bells ring at 6:35, let nothing keep you from Sacred Heart Church. The Novena begins at 6:45, is brief, and rich in its rewards.

Sunday Night Benediction

Beginning this Sunday evening, we restore a routine familiar to most of you. There will be Adoration in Sacred Heart Church from 6:30 until 7:00 -- followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Hundreds of you are accustomed to drop in for a few minutes of silent prayer, remaining for Benediction. Renew the old habit this Sunday evening.

Tomorrow is the First Saturday of the Month -- the day for Fatima Devotions in private.