

University of Notre Dame

Mother's Day Novena Cards
are now available at all
the pamphlet racks.

Religious Bulletin
May 6, 1957

Dillon, Pangborn, and Sorin
halls are scheduled for May
Adoration tomorrow.

On The Juvenile Side

Some "Big Braves" on campus thought last Thursday's Bulletin a little on the juvenile side. They're right -- and that was precisely the idea: to recall that they were youngsters not so long ago, totally dependent, and making demands on a good mother who, they probably never realized, had only 24 hours a day for them!

The Bulletin intended to point up the utter selflessness that accompanies motherhood. We tried to make the point apparent by a recital of details. Sometimes, some men need to be told, and then shown, how much love, and care, and attention were invested in their childhood by a good mother. It startles us to recall, and to admit, how dependent we were during those early years -- and how much a mother meant to our very survival. With Thursday's Bulletin went the hope that you would grasp how unselfish a good mother must be; and that maybe a little of that unselfishness would rub off onto you -- to the extent that you would seize this chance of a Novena to reciprocate in a tangible way her love and kindness.

Maybe you had forgotten -- maybe you never realized -- how much of her mind and heart, her hands and steps, were dedicated to you, day and night. The idea was to prod you into a gesture of appreciation.

Mother's Day calls for an expression of gratitude and love; and only a very selfish person could ignore the occasion.

If you care to do so, you can imitate what is done elsewhere. At Dartmouth, and Princeton, and Yale, for example, grateful sons will do the best they can -- maybe with a bouquet of roses, or with candy, or perfume. Maybe it will be a phone call, at bargain rates, or a stock phrase culled from a Western Union packaged deal -- all with a minimum of effort, and paid for with parental money. This is all well and good, because there's thoughtfulness there, and an effort to express appreciation.

Yet, there's something missing. And when you consider how much, and how thoroughly, your good mother gave of herself for you, you can put your finger on the missing element by posing the revealing question: Just how much of me personally is in such a remembrance?

At Notre Dame we do much better. We have the custom of sending a little of ourselves. We spend some time, and effort, and love, and leisure -- even at some inconvenience. All this is packaged into a little Novena of Masses, Communions, and Rosaries. It is something that only a heart can buy. It's not a commodity for sale in the market-place. No, it's something that has to come from yourself; it has to be prompted by gratitude and love. It must be prompted by generosity, and by respect for some of the holiest creatures that God ever put on this earth.

Remember: good mothers are so wonderful and so necessary that even God would not be without one. Furthermore, the best mothers reflect in a very favorable way the one that He chose for Himself. She is the Model for all mothers of all time. And our good mothers share more virtues with Her than we can recall to mind, or put into words. That's why we look up at the Lady atop the dome, and think a little of our own mothers, and thank God for the partial resemblance. It's no wonder at all that Mother's Day means something special to Notre Dame men!

PRAYERS - Deceased: "Mike" Murphy (Mt. Carmel High School faculty); Clyde Atchinson, '29; mother of Arthur Monaco, '27; father of Bill Foxley of Alumni; Mr. John O'Grady; father of Dr. Leo O'Donnell, '17; father of Jack Libert. Ill: father of Tom Eisenhauer of Pangborn; wife of former coach Al Handy; Julius Veleba (O-C). 3 special intentions.