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THE MONTH OF MAY AT NOTRE DAME

"There's something about the month of May which finds a warm response in all Notre Dame men. It's been that way for many generations here on campus; and it's no different today. And it's only natural to give expression to something that you feel intensely."

These words appeared in the RELIGIOUS BULLETIN just eight years ago, and human nature -- along with Notre Dame men -- can not have changed so much that the sentiments expressed aren't still true. So to satisfy this need Notre Dame continues to offer during the month of May very special ways of honoring Mary.

First there is the solemn opening of May devotions at the Grotto. This year the ceremony will take place on Thursday, April 30, at 6:45 p.m. The bells in the church will ring to remind you. The solemn opening will consist of a hymn to Mary, a sermon by Father Tom Brennan, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The oldest May tradition at Notre Dame is the singing of hymns at the Grotto each evening during the month. Years ago before cafeteria serving of meals spread out the supper hour and when everyone ate in what is now called the South Dining Hall, it was convenient and natural for the mob surging out of supper to head for the Grotto on those balmy May evenings. Besides, it was on the direct route of all the students who lived on the east side of the campus. Then, though there were only about half as many students on campus as there are now, the crowd usually numbered in the hundreds. Times have changed. With two dining halls and the evening meal served over the period of an hour, the Grotto is off the beaten path for everyone and there isn't the surge of the mob in one direction. So over the years the custom has become adapted to different needs. For the past several years hymns have been sung at 6:00 and 6:30. This year there will be only one gathering -- at 6:30 -- but it will include, in addition to a hymn to Mary, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Since, in today's circumstances, those who come to the Grotto must make a very special effort, the more solemn service might offer greater inducement. Of course, there is nothing to prevent any group -- large or small -- from singing hymns at the Grotto at any time. According to one of the engraved plates at the Grotto, there is a special indulgence attached to group visits.

The third May devotion is daily adoration of the Blessed Sac-

rament in the Lady Chapel of Sacred Heart Church. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed after the 11:30 Mass Monday through Friday, and adoration ends with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 4:45. Adoration begins on May 1 which this year is also the First Friday. Within the next few days a hall representative will approach you to sign up for a half hour period of adoration each week.

In the past May adoration has had a special appeal to the seniors. A few years ago, when each class had its own chaplain, the letter quoted below was sent out to the seniors by their chaplain.

An Alumnus, writing in some weeks ago, made a point that will interest all of you. He was concerned with his own present welfare, and remarked how much God had blessed him... "It must be the prayers I said at Notre Dame. God is now paying dividends at a time when I can use them best."

This week, we move into May -- your last month on campus -- your last month of undergraduate life -- your last month in this atmosphere of Notre Dame life. Never again, perhaps, will you find it so easy, and so natural, and so convenient, to pray and to participate in the Sacraments.

With May comes adoration. I am, therefore, suggesting that you seize upon this devotion in particular to make a definite investment in the future -- when you will need the blessing of God on your life and on your work. I ask you to make this month of Our Lady memorable in your lives -- one that you can cherish as your last on campus; and recall that you spent it on your knees...

It will also be something for the rest of Notre Dame to remember you for -- crowding the Lady Chapel during your last days on campus... Canvassers will be rapping on doors for May adorers. I recommend that you sign up for a half hour each week...

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ST. BONAVENTURE on the UNIVERSAL EFFICACY OF MARY'S INTERCESSION

"If you will not be submerged by tempests, do not turn away your eyes from the splendour of this star! If the storms of temptation arise, if you crash against the rocks of tribulation, look to the star, call upon Mary. If you are tossed about on the waves of pride, of ambition, of slander, of hostility, look to the star, call upon Mary. If wrath or avarice or the enticements of the flesh upset the boat of your mind, look to Mary. If you are disturbed by the immensity of your crimes... if you begin to be swallowed up by the abyss of depression and despair, think of Mary! In dangers, in

anxiety, in doubt, think of Mary, call upon Mary. Let her name not leave your lips nor your heart, and that you may receive the help of her prayer, do not cease to follow the example of her conduct... If she holds you, you will not fall, if she protects you, you need not fear."

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JOSEPH THE WORKER



Friday, May 1, is the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. In establishing the feast four years ago, Pope John XXIII had this to say:

"By offering St. Joseph as an example to all men whose lives are conditioned by the laws of work the Church intends to remind them of their great dignity, and to invite them to make their activity a potent means of personal sanctification and eternal merit.

"What greatness the silent, hidden figure of St. Joseph acquires because of the spirit in which he fulfills the mission entrusted to him by God! The true dignity of man is not measured by the glitter of great achievements, but by his interior disposition or order and good-will."

To honor St. Joseph the Worker Pope Paul extended to the bishops of the world the authority to dispense from Friday abstinence on the feast. Bishop Pursley has promulgated the dispensation in the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese. No Friday abstinence this week.

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MOTHER'S DAY this year falls on May 10. In order to complete a novena for your mother before that date, you should begin on May 1, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. If you begin the novena on Saturday, May 2, you will finish it on Mother's Day itself. Next week special Mother's Day novena cards will be available.

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FIRST FRIDAY also falls on May 1, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

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CONFIRMATION will be administered on May 17, Pentecost Sunday, at the co-Cathedral of St. Matthew in South Bend. Notre Dame students who have not been confirmed should turn in their names to their hall chaplains. And send home immediately for a copy of your baptismal certificate.

Fresh from the Pad.....

PLAYBOY

Playboy isn't a magazine just for the sexually prurient. It projects a complete value system, a way of life. Its sexual teasers merely fit into a degenerate "philosophy". Playboy is a slick package of rank materialism. Its whole tone is calculated to create an image. Its emphasis on smart expensive clothes, racy sports cars, exotic liquors, swank bachelor apartments, exposed breasts and the naked bodies of beautiful women intoxicates the male with the idea that everything in God's good world is his toy. Everything from a sports car to a girl's body is his plaything. Toys are used for enjoyment. This is convenient because when they fail to be a source of enjoyment, they are easily discarded. Its impossible to respect or be committed to a toy.

The bulging-eyed adolescent is hypnotized by Playboy's seductive nudity. Its materialistic symbols captivate the illiterate into the titillating world of unreal fantasy. But that's not all. The university student who has been exposed to the great values of history, literature, art and science, to say nothing about Christianity, is sucked in as easily as the adolescent and the illiterate. But this heavily endowed student rationally defends his addiction. And that's what he does -- rationalize. In all honesty, as a flesh and blood human being, as a created son of a loving Father, and as a brother of Christ he can't defend a cult which does nothing except cater to unadulterated selfishness.

Who is going to be the leaven of Christ to a spiritually starved humanity? Who is going to bring the light of Christian values to a world wrapped in the darkness of materialism? Who is going to rescue the curious adolescent from the irresistible tug of exploited sex? Who is going to enlighten the uninitiated and illiterate about the wonder and reverence for created things? The Catholic university student should be the lighthouse of Christian values but how can he fulfill this great privilege and responsibility if he eats up this garbage as eagerly as does a starved moron? The Peace Corps, CILA, PAVLA are wonderful apostolic actions, but what about the crying need for apostolic action on this campus?

Note: Every time you bring a Playboy into your hall, count the sins you have brought with it. Rationalize all you want about its literary quality, but also count the sins of your brothers. Argue, get mad, deny it, but you are still your brother's keeper. And, do you know something else? You're still human.

--Father Baker, C.S.C.

P.S. "If in the green wood they do these things, what shall be done in the dry?"
(Luke 23:31)