

An Act of Consecration to Mary

Hail holy Queen, our life, our sweetness, and our hope! On this feast of your Immaculate Conception, which brings to a close this year dedicated to you, we kneel about the altar of your Son, to dedicate anew in all solemnity this University to your patronage. More than a hundred years ago, Father Edward Sorin, C.S.C. arrived at this spot, and looked into the future with eyes of faith and confidence. Out of the riches of his poverty, with faith in you, he laid the foundations of this University, named with your name, Notre Dame, and crowned with your golden image. In your hands he placed this work. You were to be

the architect of its future. To you he dedicated all those men and women who would have any part in its growing.

Today from all parts of the world and, we are sure, from the heights of heaven, alumni and students join with us in renewing this dedication, and in speaking our faith and confidence in your aid and protection. Priests, Brothers, and Sisters of Holy Cross; members of our faculty, past and present, and their families; students, bearing your name, who have gone into the world to leaven it with a respect and love of Christian womanhood; and all those who still live and labor in the shadow of the dome, kneel and consecrate to you their hearts, their wills, their

destinies, their whole beings, and, especially, this University.

Mother of God, who taught the Word of God to lisp His first human syllables; who guided the first faltering steps of Him Who is Himself the way; at whose knee He first made articulate in time, that divine communion with His Father which was before all time; teach us what to say and do, keep us ever on the way that leads to life, and unite us in time and eternity with our Father Who is in heaven.

We bless today, at the very entrance of Notre Dame, a new image of your graceful majesty, to be a reminder to all of our solemn rededication to you, and to be a perpetual memorial of our gratitude for all that has been accomplished here through your powerful intercession

and motherly care.

Notre Dame, Seat of Wisdom, be our light and inspiration,
our protector in the trials of life, and pray for us sinners, now
and at the hour of our death. Amen.
