

Please return your
questionnaire promptly.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
May 3, 1938.

It's not too late to
start the Novena for
your mother.....

Why Is Mary Your Mother?

During May, dedicated as it is to the Mother of God and your Mother, you will want to understand what "maternity" really means. Then you will know how close you are to Mary.

Some foolishly think and say: "Let's not be sentimental. God made Mary the mother of Jesus, but neither God nor Mary intended that she should be the mother of unborn millions, except in a very loose and figurative sense."

That attitude is wrong. As a young girl, Mary had been nourished on the prophecies of Israel. Like all good Jews of her time, she looked forward to the coming of the Messiah as confidently as we look backward to the crucifixion of Christ.

Hence when the Angel said to her: "You shall conceive in your womb and bring forth a son and you shall name him Jesus; he shall be great; thou shalt call him the Son of the Most High; he shall reign eternally over the house of Jacob" Mary knew clearly that, of all Jewish women, she had been singled out as the one to be mother of the redeemer.

In utter confusion at the unique honor, she understood that she was the woman foretold in Genesis who would crush the serpent's head. As Eve, at the beginning, had conspired in betraying mankind into the power of Satan, Mary, the new Eve, would now mother the restoration of humanity in the kingdom of Grace.

Hence by her "fiat" she willingly accepted the motherhood of the redeemer and the motherhood of the redeemed. She became as really a mother to us as she is to Jesus Himself.

To John the disciple whom Jesus loved, and who represented all true disciples of the master, Jesus said from the Cross: "Behold your mother." That was the public confirmation of the full mission of Mary, made by Jesus Himself, at the solemn moment of our redemption.

The work of redemption is simply to bring Christ into the souls of men. Mary has a mother's part in that work. How does she operate? In your case she has had a hand in your coming to her university. That was not by mere chance.

And it is not by mere chance either that devotion to the Blessed Eucharist is featured here on the campus. It is Mary's way of bringing her sons closer to Christ.

As your spiritual mother, she would have you go frequently to Holy Communion, because this is to bring Jesus anew into your soul. She would have you shun mortal sin and avoid everything that leads to it, because this is to prolong His presence within you.

She would have you be modest and chaste, humble and obedient, kind and forgiving, because these virtues make you more like her Divine Son.

How anxious she is to help you in temptation, to hurry you back into the state of grace if you ever fall into mortal sin!

Go to Mary knowing that towards you she has a mother's heart--tender, ardent, generous, and forgiving.

And realize that your title of "Son of Mary" is not cheap talk.

PRAYERS: (deceased) anniversary death of mother of Dan Boyle (Lyons); friend of Gerald Morrissey (Dil); anniv. death of mother of Jack McGuire (Dil.); aunt of Pete Pankey (Cav.); father of Frank Conboy '32. Ill, father and sister of Arnold Maes (Al); mother of George Mulligan (Dil.); mother of Fr. R. Sheehan, C.S.C. Four special ints.