

May 8, 1950

Bricks And Crowbars.

Novena for Mother's Day began last Friday. Thought we were going to have an all-out novena at that. The sharp drop in Mass attendance and Holy Communions the day after and this morning was a heavy let-down--felt like two loads of bricks dumped from third floor Walsh upon somebody's head.

Among civilized unsophisticates it is still good form to show a bit of attention to your mothers. We would expect more of you to strain a point and get up for Mass and receive Communion. It has been said that to tickle a rhinoceros one has to use a crowbar and not a feather duster.

A Mother's Reaction.

Some time ago Our Sunday Visitor quoted a letter written by a former Notre Dame student. Read it.

"Dear Father: At certain periods or times each year I have tried to show my mother in various little ways how much I loved her and how much I appreciated her love for me. All these favors included something of a material nature, such as books, flowers, telegrams, and so on. Although I believe that Mother's Day is commercialized a great deal, I still think it is one day on which we should remember our mothers in some manner or or other. So on that day each year I send her some gift.

"I frequently remember Mother in my Communions and prayers, but have never sent her a spiritual gift in the form of a spiritual bouquet. This year I decided to make a novena for my Mother and send her one of the cards obtainable on the campus telling her of the offerings I had made for her.

"I had never realized just how much Mother would appreciate such a gift. Let her own words express her appreciation: 'Your spiritual bouquet is an admirable gift and has brought such happiness to me. You are a good son and God will bless you for it. I cannot express all that is in my heart. I love and thank you.'.....

"I want to thank you for finally making me realize just how much a Mother appreciates the spiritual gifts of her son. This has finally been brought home to me, and is home to stay."

It's good to see many dutiful sons making this Novena. But to the mothers who will not receive a spiritual bouquet we offer our sympathies.....

Neglected Mothers

If you are selfish, maybe she's to be blamed. Did she scrape and save to send you to Notre Dame? Did she always soften the blow for you when things didn't go right with your dad? Did your dad insist that you get up promptly and not lie in bed like a lazy galoot, and then did your mother defend you and say: "Oh, he's so tired. Let him sleep."?

Did she stand between you and your irate dad when the family car came home with a banged-up fender--and after midnight with 53 unaccounted for miles on the speedometer? Did she pray her heart out for you and then nullify the effects of her prayers by being too good to you? Did she err by excessive love? We'll ask the men whose mothers spanked them when they were kids to pray for your mother, that God may comfort her next Sunday when she will not receive a Spiritual Bouquet for Mother's Day.

Prayers: (deceased) Rev. Ernest Davis, C.S.C.; friend of Dick McNamara (Ly); Rev. Flavian Voet, '29; Father of Rev. Casimir Grabarz C.S.C.; Ill father of Paul Komora (Alu); Mrs. J. Garrago; uncle of Joe Daniel (O-C); Fr. of Rev. Robert Fagan, C.S.C. Fr. of Jack Barrett (Dil).