

Tonight at 6:45 -- The
Novena to the Sorrowful
Mother.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
December 3, 1954

Tomorrow -- First Saturday
Fatima Devotions in private

About Our Lady.

William Lyon Phelps, the famous Yale professor and critic of English Literature, once wrote in his syndicated column:

"I shall never forget the first time I entered the Cathedral of Antwerp when I was a young man, and saw Ruben's painting of the Assumption. I was quite unaware that his picture of the Descent from the Cross, in the same cathedral, was regarded as superior; but for some reason I was then more impressed by the Assumption.

"Although I am not a Catholic, I always attend a Catholic church on this day (feast of the Assumption). Since 1928, the nearest Catholic church to where I live in August is at Port Austin, in Michigan, eight and one-half miles from my home. I go to this church every year on that day to do honor to Our Lady. It should be remembered that the Catholics do not worship the Virgin Mary; they worship only God. But they venerate Mary, and pray to her.

"Ian Maclaren (the Reverend Dr. John Watson) author of Beside the Bonnie Briar Bush, said that he was once traveling through Europe, and entered an ancient cathedral. There was an old woman praying, and he knelt beside her. As they came out together, she asked, 'Are you a Catholic?' 'No, Madam.' 'Don't you ever pray to the Blessed Virgin?' 'No, my dear.' 'Oh, sir, you are a man and perhaps cannot understand. I am a woman, and you cannot imagine what a comfort it is to have a woman to pray to.'

"Men and women of all branches of spiritual faith might well venerate not only reverently but affectionately Our Lady."

Yes, they might, Professor. And thank you for your noble effort to introduce Our Blessed Lady into the knowledge and love of mankind.

And have you ever noticed, historically, that after people give up reverence for Our Lady, very soon they seem to abandon true worship of her Son? The step is logical enough: if Mary is not the mother of a God-Man, she is the mother of an imposter or a fool -- the biggest imposter or fool the world has ever known.

All of you, Catholics and non-Catholics, lately enrolled in this school, should know early of Mary's preeminence in Heaven. She is the Queen-Mother at her Son's court. And she is a very particular kind of Queen-Mother, because not in one single detail has she ever displeased her Son. Imagine her power with Him!

Her Grotto behind the church is her particular rendezvous. Visit it often. Pray to her. She wants to assist you, protect you. She has as much interest in your daily problems as does your own earthly mother. Her acquaintance and friendship are necessary for your vitality as a son of Notre Dame.

Non-Catholics on campus should remember, incidentally, that the obligation to worship God is a universal one -- and applies to everyone, regardless of denomination. That Notre Dame is a Catholic school does not mean that you -- a non-Catholic --- have no religious obligations here. Go to Church -- any Church of your choice -- and worship God publically on Sunday with the rest of society.

PRAYERS -- Deceased: Sister Agnes, CSJ, '54. Ill: Vaughn Cronin, ex-'53; Ray Lemek (surgery); 2 sick persons.