A downtown florist delivered a box of roses to Sacred Heart Church Wednesday evening. A student who happened to be present at the time remarked, "Ah, a wedding!"

"No," replied the sacristan, who proceeded to tell the true story about the roses.

A former student always sends flowers for all feasts of Our Blessed Mother. It is his desire that they be placed on the Lady Altar in honor of Mary. The Wednesday flowers were for the feast of the Most Holy Rosary on Thursday.

This old student has been sending flowers for many years. When he went to war, he arranged for a relative to purchase the flowers and send them to Notre Dame for him.

This is a concrete example of devotion to the Mother of God. The essence of devotion to any one means to think often of that person and to do things in his or her honor. Surely this student has true devotion. Our Blessed Lady must love him in return.

At Fatima the Mother of God appealed to us to love her in a special way. She wants us to have devotion to her Immaculate Heart. In one of her apparitions to the Fatima children she extended her right hand towards the children in a gesture of offering, and in her palm was a heart. The children understood that this was the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Our Lady made very clear why she held out that heart. These are her words: "Jesus wants to establish the devotion to my Immaculate Heart in the world. I promise salvation to those who embrace it and their souls will be loved by God as flowers placed by myself to adorn His throne."

Sinners can find hope of salvation if they embrace the heart of their Mother. Even if Mary did not speak about her love for sinners we would expect her to seek out and help her wayward children. Her words spoken at Fatima serve to confirm the sinners trust in her: "You have seen Hell where the souls of sinners end. To save souls, the Lord desires that devotion to my Immaculate Heart be established in the world. If what I tell you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace.

The dying words of Jacinta, one of the Fatima children, stresses the desire of Our Lady to help not only sinners, but everyone in need: "Tell everybody that God gives graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Tell them to ask these graces from her, and that the Heart of Jesus wishes to be venerated together with the Immaculate Heart of His Mother."

Go down to the Grotto tonight and consecrate your whole life to the Mother of God and her Immaculate Heart. Today is her feast day, so why not ask her for a favor after dedicating your life to her!

PRAISES: (deceased) William Marsh, father-in-law of Joseph Green (OC); uncle of Francis Verschneider (OC); father of Bill Tucker, "40; father of Fr. Raymond Conmy, C.S.C; father of "Profas" Fitzsimmons. Four Special Intentions.