"Absence makes the heart grow fonder," murmured the sentimental youth.

"Oh, I don't know," remarked the matter-of-fact girl. "Did you ever try presents?"

With Mother's Day coming up, May 9, you might keep this in mind. Your absence is bound to be noticed at home. A little gift to your mother on that occasion would doubtlessly make her heart beat a little faster. The Novena we start tomorrow morning is something that no one can regard as too expensive, or in poor taste. It is your opportunity, and your duty, to make a holy thing of Mother's Day.

A Point of View

Blessed Pope Pius X, who will be canonized next month, used to tell how his mother, after working as a washerwoman and school janitress in order to give him an education, finally attended his episcopal consecration. That evening when everyone had departed, to tease his mother a little, the future Pope asked her, at the same time holding up his ring:

"Did you ever dream that this wonder of a bishop's ring would ever be your boy's?"

She smiled a little in that understanding way which all mothers have.

"Yes," she said, "it is wonderful." Then she held up the plain gold band on her own finger and continued: "But always remember, son, if it were not for this little ring on my finger, it would never have been possible for you to have that ring on your finger."

"As Mothers Go ....

So Goes The Nation." A nation is as good as the families that comprise it. And a family is as good as the mother of that household. It is the basic unit of society. And a good mother is the guiding light of every unit. In casting up the blessings in your young lives, put your good mother at the top.

Occasionally, it is not out of order to make some ostensible gesture of appreciation. That's the idea we have in making something of Mother's Day -- even to letting our mothers know about it. Spiritual gifts are best, and will last longest. Surely, your mother is deserving of the best! Start the Novena tomorrow.

"Listen," Said Cardinal Newman

"Listen! You may be taken away young; you may live to four score; you may die in your bed; you may die in the open field -- but if Mary interceded for you, that day will find you watching and ready. All things will be fixed to secure your salvation; all dangers will be foreseen, all obstacles removed; all aids provided. The hour will come, and in a moment you will be translated into a new state where sin is not, nor ignorance of the future, but perfect and serene joy, and assurance and love everlasting."

Daily Adoration for the month of May starts next Monday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the Lady Chapel of Sacred Heart Church -- just as in Lent. The Bulletin suggests the intention of a happy death for your half-hours of adoration, during May.