One day when Cardinal Dechamps, the former Archbishop of Mechlin, Belgium, was making a journey in the company of a good Anglican neighbor, the conversation quite naturally turned to religious topics. It so happened that the Angelus sounded from a neighboring church — which caused the conversation to center upon the Mother of God. The good Anglican was at a loss to understand devotion to Mary. Nor was he very sympathetic.

"I don't expect my salvation from Mary," he declared finally, "and so I see no reason for honoring her."

The Cardinal looked thoughtfully out the window of the carriage for a moment. His companion settled back comfortably on the logic of his statement, but grew uneasy at the delay of the Archbishop to pursue the point. Then, after a little reflection the prelate queried:

"Is it not true that you think of yourself what I think of myself — that we are both poor sinners; and have not many merits to take with us to God's judgment seat?"

"Yes, not many," his companion agreed.

"You are right," the Cardinal continued, "in expecting salvation from the Lord. I do that, too. But what a great difference between the two of us when we appear before God's judgment seat. You will approach God as an orphan; but I shall be led by my Mother's hand, and no man has ever trusted his mother in vain."

And the Words of Love

Douglas Hyde, while still a Communist and news editor of the Daily Worker, in London, used to drop into a Catholic Church in the vague hope of finding the Faith which his heart yearned for. It was a quiet and peaceful place, and afforded him a chance to be alone, and to think. It seemed all in vain, however, until one day he saw a change which took place in the previously troubled face of a servant girl who had been saying her Beads before a statue of Our Lady.

Hoping for a similar miracle, he walked to the front of the church and knelt down before the same statue. There he tried to think of all the grand prayers he had once read in years gone by, or heard from the lips of eloquent preachers. But none of them expressed just what he wanted to say at that time.

Then the lines of a dance tune came to him: "O sweet and lovely lady be good, o Lady be good to me!" That's all that would come.

These words, dance-tune words, were good enough for the Lady to whom he was speaking. And from that moment on, Douglas Hyde's progress into the Church was sure and certain. Today, he is one of the outstanding champions of the Church.

It's quite possible that you could profit by a little Novena to the same Lady for your success in the coming exams. Tomorrow is not too late to start.

Those of you who have not as yet profited by the daily Adoration during May in the Lady Chapel still have this week to go. Choose a half-hour at your own convenience and make the most of the opportunity that Notre Dame offers in this respect. It's the last chance for the Seniors. It could be your last chance, too.