The Week in Liturgy

By REV. ROBERT W. HOYDA

Monday, May 1

St. Joseph the Worker. God made us to be workers. Our dignity is to be co-workers with Him; to take the wilderness He gave us and make of it a human dwelling place, to take the raw materials He provides and develop them, perfect them, produce with them the things our human family needs for life. It is the work we Christians do around the altar that gives meaning and substance to all our other work. It is the light we absorb there from God's Word that prompts us to use our heads and talents to become good husbands and wives, good farmers, doctors, merchants, mechanics, carpenters—good workers. It is the love we find there that puts heart and humanity into our work. It is the reverence we learn there for all God's gifts that helps us to respect our tools and raw materials and techniques as more than eight alone accounts for.

Tuesday, May 2

St. Athanasius, Bishop, Confessor, Doctor. The Epistle tells us that we carry the treasure of Christian truth in vessels of clay and the Gospel reminds us again of our dependence on Jesus in the ministry of the same truth. We do minister the truth, and so we are tools; but we are mere ministers, never proprietors, always His instruments. The message, the good news, never becomes ours. It remains His. The doctors of the Church are the best teachers because they have been most aware of these facts and most humble before that truth of His which they proclaim.

Wednesday, May 3

Mass as on Sunday. The Church's public worship, her liturgy, is one of the ordinary ways in which the Spirit of Truth teaches. The Christian community is at Mass as a learning as well as a worshipping community. Not only do the scripture readings teach, but the psalms and prayers, the gestures, colors, and other material things employed, as well. If Christian perception of the essentials of Faith is not uniformly keen, the answer must be sought in the power of our services of public worship to communicate, in the intelligibility of the liturgy, as well as in other forms of adult education.

Thursday, May 4

St. Monica, Widow. The resurrection story of the son of the widow of Naim echoes the Easter mystery. So was Monica's Augustine raised by the new leaven of Christ the Victor, raised from his slavery to things to the liberty of the spirit. Eastertide is a time of emancipation, of freedom, of restoration of man to mastery, to lordship under God, even to the mastery of death. The Church's sacramental worship claims all things from God, subjects all things to Him, asserts its sovereignty, and inspires the Christian people to age. The bread and wine we present at the altar are the most important tokens of the fact that through man's dominion all creation worships the Father.

Friday, May 5

St. Pius V, Pope, Confessor. The Rock of the Church during a part of the turbulent post-Reformation period, Pope Pius V preserved and unified the Latin missal and breviary of the Western Church. It was a great work in its time. We live in a less defensive day when there is growing recognition in the Church that if the sacramental rites of common prayer are to instruct and inspire the Christian people they must be adapted from age to age. The truth doesn't change, but people do. Their languages change, their customs change, their interests and concerns and universes change. Present reforms in public worship are beginning steps seeking to bridge this "cultural lag."

Saturday, May 6

St. Mary on Saturday. The Eastertide Mass of our Lady for Saturday celebrates the Christian's joy in sharing Jesus' victory over death. That He is only the first-born of a new creation He confesses in the Gospel words: "Behold, your mother." She is always our guarantee against tendencies to make Him so remote and His Gospel so "high" that both are beyond the reach of us mortals. He is our Brother, and the Allelulia says that His Resurrection is our resurrection.

AT THE GROTTO

Take a few minutes to join those honoring Our Lady at the Grotto, this evening and every evening during May at 6:00 or 6:30. There will be a couple of hymns and a few short prayers. Through the years, these devotions have been one of the favorite practices of Notre Dame students.

EXPOSITION

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament continues each week-day during the month of May, in the Lady Chapel of Sacred Heart Church. Tomorrow, residents of Sorin, Pangborn, Dillon are asked to assume the responsibility for keeping the Lady Chapel filled between Noon and 4:45. Benediction will be given at 4:45. On Wednesday, residents of Badin, Howard, Lyons, and Keenan are asked to visit the Lady Chapel throughout the afternoon.

MOTHER'S DAY

The hands of every mother tell a magnificent story of love, courage, and faith. Let's remember this during May, but especially during the Novena for Mother's Day. The Novena begins on Friday, May 5th.

KNIGHTS

This afternoon and this evening, the Knights of Columbus will choose officers for the coming year. All members are asked to be present this evening.

IN YOUR CHARITY

Please pray for the following:

Deceased: Father of Joe Heineman of St Edward's; Edward J. Meehan, '20; friend of Joe Brigati, O-C.
God, in His love for us, blessed us with a heavenly Mother, Mary. She cooperates with Him to give us life, she channels supernatural life to our souls.

Like our earthly mother, she encourages us to overcome temptations. She is pleased with our triumphs. She begs forgiveness for us in our defeats. She inspires us to rise and start over again.

She, just as your earthly mother, sees through you with eyes of love. She sees through to the good heart that is there in spite of the occasional weakness or thoughtlessness. And when contrition and courage are needed by the embittered or fearful heart, it is she who provides it. For you, here, she has a special affection. She wants you carry away from here a fondness for her. This fondness she wants you to express in terms of courage, purity, and charity.

Begin by giving her this month of May. For some of you, it will be the last month you spend here. For all of you it can be a time for strengthening your alliance with her. Attend the devotions each evening at the Grotto; pause daily in the Lady Chapel of Sacred Heart Church while the Blessed Sacrament is exposed; say her favorite prayer—the Rosary; and finally, don’t neglect the greatest prayer of all, the Mass.

To Our Lady
You are good to us, O Great Queen,
Good as our mothers are,
And you know us by name, each one,—
Ah! Heavenly Registrar,
Enter our names in the book
Into which your dear Son will look!

For we know that a time will come,
The graduating year,
When thousands and thousands of us
Who dreamed on your beauty here
Will gather before your face
And dream and talk of this place.

Then when your Son comes by,
You will tell Him, as of old,
"These are the boys we knew,
I, in my cloak of gold.
You at the breaking of Bread—
These are the troops You fed."

And a shout shall split the skies
As the ranks send up His Name,
A golden hour in heaven
When your sons, O Notre Dame,
Kneel to their Leader down,
There by the hem of your gown. — '06.