

MAY FACTS

The Catholic Church has dedicated the month of May to Mary, the Mother of Jesus. This dedication originated with the Jesuits and later spread throughout the Church. Special devotions to Mary, including preparing May altars with flowers, processions and the recitation of the rosary, became a practice throughout the Latin Church.

TEACH CHILDREN TO STAND UP FOR THEMSELVES

When your child is facing a problem with another child, the best thing you can do is help him/her figure out how to handle the problem on his/her own. Sometimes you do have to get directly involved if your child cannot handle it or if he or she is in danger.

Ideally, helping your children develop their own protective responses will enable them to become more self sufficient. When your child comes to you about a problem situation, help him/her work out a solution by role-playing the situation. Help your child discover several alternate ways of dealing with difficult people. If the problem continues to persist, a meeting with the teacher or the other child's parents may become necessary.

HONORING MARY

Some suggestions for honoring Mary during the month of May:

- Wear a medal or pin with Mary's image on it.
- Recite a "Hail Mary" before and after dinner.
- Pray the rosary together.
- Tell stories about Mary.
- Read about Mary in the Bible.
- Discuss Marian feasts.
- Imitate Mary's virtues.
- Decorate Mary's altar with fresh garden flowers.



POLITE NIGHT

Once a month plan a "Polite Night" to teach children good manners. Use the best dinnerware, dine by candlelight and apply all the rules of etiquette during this special family dinner. Teach and practice etiquette by setting the table correctly, using all the correct utensils, passing food and condiments properly and engaging in friendly conversation. This can be an enjoyable experience as well as one that makes children grow up to be secure in their social relationships.

MOTHERS' DAY

*On Mothers' Day
We pray our Lady's blessing
Will joyfully impart
A sense of peace and happiness
To treasure in your heart.
And through God's love and grace
In all the coming years
May Mothers' Day bring added joy
Each time that it appears.*



Anna Jarvis of Pennsylvania is credited with inspiring the establishment of a day to honor all mothers. Anna's mother was an active worker in church and community affairs.

Shortly after her mother's death, Anna arranged a special memorial service in the church her mother had attended. The idea of the service was well received and spread to other churches in the area. On the second Sunday of May, 1908, churches in the city of Philadelphia observed their first Mothers' Day services.

These services were so widely acclaimed that Jarvis persistently campaigned for nationwide observance. Through her power of persuasion, Senator Burkett of Nebraska introduced a bill into congress designating the second Sunday in May as a national Mothers' Day. In May, 1914, the bill was passed, signed by President Wilson, making it law.

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is the day set aside each year for the purpose of honoring soldiers who died in service to their country. It began as a day commemorating the soldiers who fought in the Civil War.

After the hostilities between Union and Confederate forces ceased, the widows and friends of slain Southerners showed their love and gratitude to their fallen heroes by decorating their graves. They also decorated the graves of the northern dead. The news of this tribute flashed across the North like a ray of hope.

In 1868, General John Logan, commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), showed his admiration for this custom by issuing an order designating May 30th as a day for all G.A.R. posts to honor the Civil War dead.

Memorial Day is now a national holiday honoring all those who have died in military service. It falls on the last Monday in May.

Memorial Day Grave-Site Prayer

O God, we have come to the final resting place of _____ with reverence and love. We see the name of our loved one, marking this sacred place. You have called our beloved to Yourself, O God. We are reminded that you have called _____ by name.

We recognize the signs of life around us, the trees and grass, flowers and plants. Let this be a reminder, Jesus, of Your resurrection and of eternal life. Help us to remember, in our sorrow and grief here on earth, that we all will be reunited together with You. There will be no more suffering and death and every tear will be wiped away. Bring _____ and all those who have died to eternal rest with You. Amen.

