Mother's Day
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IN NOMINE JESU

St. Mark 10: 13 ... And they brought young children to Him, that He should touch them.

THE CHRISTIAN MOTHER !

Once again the hand on the clock of time has turned around, and it is Mother's Day. One this day the countless children around this great land are remembering and paying tribute to their mothers. Would to God that every mother in this vast and mighty land of ours deserved to be remembered! Would to God that every mother was a Christian mother! Have you ever thought about that? - that every woman who has a child does not deserve the name mother, that millions of mothers in our country are far from being Christian, that there may be mothers in our own congregation who are shirking their God-given responsibility of bringing their children to Jesus and teaching them the Christian way of life? It's a hard thought, and certainly not one we like to dwell on - especially on this day which is given to over-sentimentalization and a eulogizing of motherhood. But it's a thought that desperately demands our attention! JUST WHAT MAKES A CHRISTIAN MOTHER And that is what I would like to consider with you today.

It's one of the sad signs of our time that juvenile delinquency is rapidly on the increase than on the decrease. Homicides in the United States within a recent period have increase 1,200%, the majority committed by young men. Thievery by youth has risen to amazing proportions. And it may well be that many of these crimes have been committed by youths of Christian homes - where mothers have neglected their responsibility - the responsibility of bringing their children to Jesus. A former policeman of Chicage said: Unless certain causes of decadence are removed, America faces a future of despair. Degenerate producers have thrust lustful thoughts into the minds of American youth in such a way that never before in the history of our country was there such a wild abandon of uncontrolled impulses. A leader of an anti-filth organization reports: I know what I am talking about. We're going the way of Greece and Rome, and going rapidly. It's time you take your heads out of the sand and see what's going on in the land. A deeply serious girls' counselor of the New York Civic League speaks of the liquor vendors who are beingg

sent among high school students and promoting drinking parties, so that youngsters will begin to think it is a tame party where they do not have any booze. An educator from a foreign land steps up to declare, The American dance is ruining my country.

What is wrong with the American ~~home~~ youth? What can we do to stop this octopus of vice and lust and crime that is stretching out its slimy tentacles to drag down our children into the cesspool of iniquity? It will not do to shout an over-abundance of laws. Now, Johnny, I don't want to see you doing this! Don't let me ever catch you doing that! Laws will never change the heart, nor the way of life. Where, then, does the trouble lie? The cartoonist Shoemaker illustrated it very strikingly in one of his cartoons. It showed a man coming out of the front door of his home with a blunderbuss in his hand, indignant over an outrage committed upon his daughters. He would track down the guilty one. The trail led around through the woods, circled, and finally came upto a door. Ah! here he would find the cause, the guilty one. He looked up. Great Scot! He dropped his flintlock, dumfounded. It was the back door of his own home. Someone has rightly said that juvenile delinquency is nothing less than parental delinquency. If you are honestly looking for a way to arrest delinquency, halt the flood of crime, stop the decay of morals - then look to those who have the first responsibility in the training of youth, the parents. Wise old Solomon put it very well when he said: As the twig is bent, so shall the tree be! Parents are the ones who bend the twigs.

It seems to me that many mothers of today would like nothing better than to push a button or turn a switch and have their children raised automatically. But God has seen fit to make children human beings and not machines. Granted that the modern Amercian mother is a busy woman - but God help us if she becomes too busy for her children. Simply to shove a child aside - outside, in a playroom, before the T.V. and exclaim over and over: Mother's too busy now; go play - is to tragically neglect the responsibilities of motherhood.

A little love will go a long way! In one of his essays, John Barry tell of an incident that happened in a streetcar. At one of the stops a woman boarded the car with a little boy following close behind her. They sat in long seat, the boy between her and another woman. Soon the other woman noticed the boy was cuddling up against her coat and sometimes getting his muddy feet against it. She finally turned to the woman with whom the boy had entered and said, Madam, will yo please keep your boy's feet off my coat. The reply was, Pardon me, but he isn't my boy. The other woman became curious and asked him about it. He looked up shyly and said, I ain't got no mother. But I make believe sometimes, and when I see some lady like you that I would like for a mother, I pretend she is. The lady was so deeply touched by the little fellow's disarming affection that she adopted him. Eggleston in his, The Hoosier Schoolmaster, tells of little Shocky, a shy, bashful boy from the backwoods. One day after hours the schoolmaster spoke a few friendly words to him, and poor little Shocky, as the author relates, he hied away through the tall trees, a very happy boy, saying over and over again, How he looke at me! how he did look!... smiling clear down to his shoes at the master's kind words. A little love will go a long way....

The Christian mother will be a woman of prayer. Daily she will be found a the foot of the Cross, pleading for forgiveness for her own shortcomings and asking for the Savior's guiding direction in raising her children. She will be a woman like Monica, the mother of Augustine, who would not give up praying, who persisted in it till her prayers eventually turned her wayward son to the Cross of Christ and the paths of righteousness. She will be a woman like Washington's mother. In the Washington historical museum there is a pocket notebook, well-worn and thumbed and marked with corrections and signs of study. It was his private book of prayers. A bronze tablet on the subtreasury in New York City shows the stern general with his chisel-cut features kneeling in the snow at Valley Forge. Someone has said that the War of the Revolution was won on that spot. His will to see it through to victory was sustained by prayer. Where did that element of

success come from? When the young Washington left home, his mother's parting word were: My son, do not neglect the secret duty of prayer!

The Christian mother will lead her children into the Bible and teach the the Word of God. It was Lincoln, Honest Abe, who said: All that I am or ever hope to be I owe to my mother! And what kind of a mother did Lincoln have? It was she who declared: I would rather Abe would be able to read the Bible than to own a far if he can't have both. Are the mothers in our congregation so concerned about having their children know the Bible?

The Christian mother will prize her children above all else, above the gaity of society, above the glamour, glitter, and sparkle of the world. When the barbarians of the north ransacked the decaying Roman world, they came upon a littl town and asked an old man at the gate where the richest home was. He pointed up the hill to the home of the Gracchus family. The vandals went and battered at the door and demanded that the mother show them her jewels. She hushed them and said, Will you be very quiet if I show you? The rough captain thought it queer but consented and followed her into a little chamber. There are my jewels, said the mother as she pointed to her sleeping children. The old warrior, thinking of his own boys and girls in the far northland, turned and ordered his pack of thieves to withdraw. Do you mothers treasure your children that highly?

The Christian mother will, above all, bring her children to Jesus, the Savior. There is no more beautiful picture in the Bible than our Lord's interest in children. It is said of Him: He shall feed His flock like a shepherd and gather the young lambs in His bosom. To Him one lost lamb out of a hundred is as precious as though it were all He had. Most gladly will He leave the ninety and nine and go out to seek the one little black lamb who has gotten into mischief - and, as the song has it, that little black lamb was me.

Children, a bother? A nuisance? Jesus never thought so. When His impatient disciples stood in the way of the mothers who were bringing their children to Him to be blessed and told them not to trouble the Master, He was much dis-

pleased: Suffer the little children to come unto Me and forbid them not. A bother? Trouble? Why, of such is the Kingdom of God. And those who are guilty of of corrupting youth He denounced in sharp and stinging rebuke: Whoso shall offend one of these little ones that believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Mothers, yours is a priceless privilege! God has given you children not to have and to hold, but to have and to mould - to teach and train and bring to Jesus! Too much trouble? Too much of a bother? God forbid! - Of such is the Kingdom of God!

Amen.