

From the Archives

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On the morning of May 8, 1937, the Saturday before Mother's Day, the white marble statue *Mary, Mother of Mankind* was unveiled and dedicated in Memorial Hall by Most Rev. Michael J. Curley, Archbishop of Baltimore; assisting him were Rt. Rev. Joseph M. Corrigan, Rector of The Catholic University of America and Rt. Rev. David T. O'Dwyer, the second Director of the National Shrine (1933-1940). The donors of the statue, Elizabeth Marable Brennan and her husband Judge Philip A. Brennan of Brooklyn, N.Y. were also in attendance as was the New York sculptor, Harry Eversfield Donohue, and his wife, who had modeled for the statue. The donation of this gift and the festive dedication marked the 10th anniversary of the Mary's Day Movement, which was promoted by Mrs. Brennan in 1927 and was inaugurated on May 12, 1928 by the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae (IFCA).

Mary's Day was held annually on the Sat-

urday before Mother's Day to commemorate "Mary's motherhood of the human race." On this day, participants pledged to wear visibly the Miraculous Medal, to attend Mass and receive Communion, and to make a contribution, "Mary's Mite," through some small sacrifice. The Mary's Day slogan for the inaugural year of 1928 was: "*Mary's Mite on Mary's Day for Mary's Altar.*" This was to help the Federation achieve its goal to finish payment on the Mary Memorial Altar (Main Altar) in the Crypt Church, a goal that was in fact achieved.

In October 1937, Pope Pius XI bestowed his Apostolic Blessing upon the Movement, whose leadership committee now boasted of representatives from Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, England, Ireland, Serbia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, the United States, and the West Indies and was under the sponsorship of 85 bishops. During the 1950s, an annual novena was held during the evening hours at the National Shrine in honor of Mary, Mother of Mankind.

