

The coming of warmer weather brings with it a number of activities: Mother's Day (already celebrated), Father's Day, graduations, first communions, confirmations, ordinations and weddings. There are also many important religious commemorations like the Visitation, Ascension, Pentecost, Most Holy Trinity, Corpus Christi, Nativity of John the Baptist, Most Sacred Heart and Saints Peter and Paul.

Often Knights, as family men, active parishioners and people of faith are involved with all these events which speak to our secular and sacred obligations. Have we done all we can to bring our values to the things that mark the days of our lives? Certainly the Color Corps always makes for a positive visible element; but I am speaking of something more. Are we as creative as we could be with accompanying activities? Do our Knights and friends understand the significance of events in the liturgical calendar?

Mother's and Father's Day are honored because good parents are the foundation to "the little Church" of the family. Graduations symbolize a coming of age and we hope and pray that kids will carry forward our faith and values. We celebrate sacraments that bring us to full communion with Christ and his Church. Praise God for all good parents who fulfill their obligations in raising their children right. What our sons and daughters do afterwards, we cannot be certain; but at least Christian parents can say they did all they could. Who knows, maybe some will embrace vocations? Others may come to marriage— may they come to the marriage bed undefiled.

As for Holy Days, they should have an impact upon our lives, not just numbers to cross off the calendar. Like Mary who visited Elizabeth, do we open our homes to Jesus and Mary? Jesus ascended to the Father as our advocate so that his saving presence would not be limited to any time or place; do we trust that God cares and that we are not an orphaned people? Christ sends his Spirit upon the infant Church; do we view our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit? Some wrongly dismiss the definition of the Trinity as just an academic exercise; do we appreciate that God has revealed himself to us so that we might truly know and love him, abiding in the Trinity forever? Our Lord gave his very self to us as the REAL presence to nurture us; have we honored and worshipped Jesus as we should in the Blessed Sacrament? Do we see something of our own mystery in the Body of Christ? Are there some holy days like the Nativity of John the Baptist that we pass up, instead of interpreting them as occasions to proclaim the Gospel of Life? Do we ponder the cost of our sins and that wonderful Sacred Heart that sacrificed himself for us? Living in a world of confusion and many false voices, are we thankful for membership in the Church instituted by Christ upon the twin pillars of St. Peter and St. Paul?

Reflect upon your life. Meditate upon the truths of faith. Create activities and new ways of putting meat upon the bones of our Catholicism! There is a pattern we must follow: to educate, to incorporate and to celebrate. Using the CIS we can better know the mysteries of faith. We can share what we learn and give out CIS booklets to others, making these truths come to life for us. And then, we can truly celebrate! Vivat Iesus!