Since ancient times, the Virgin Mary has been especially loved and revered by the Church and her children. She is compared to the most wonderful and beautiful woman among thousands of women. Therefore, the Mother's place exudes a sweet fragrance, symbolizing virtues. In the Old Testament, God commanded Moses to make flower buds and petals to decorate the 7-bumt lamp placed in front of the Ark of the Covenant. Or like Solomon, he ordered artisans to carve flower petals inside and outside to decorate the Holy of Holies in the temple. From there, flowers in Catholic liturgy and tradition have always been respected. It is used to decorate the sanctuary, altar or to pay homage to saints, especially the Virgin Mary. That is, flowers are used in solemn positions in the liturgical life of the Church.

Mother Mary is likened to a fragrant flower before the Throne of God, chosen by God and through her "Yes" she has become more beautiful among thousands of women. There have been many shrines specifically dedicated to the Virgin Mary by the Church; The Church has also established many special days to honor Mother Mary's privileges and events to express gratitude and honor her. And in particular, the Church has dedicated this entire month of May to honor Mother Mary.

In the early centuries, Flowers were considered the Goddess of Spring. Therefore, in May, the month that begins Spring, the Romans have the custom of organizing a holiday to honor flowers and also to honor the Goddess of Spring. Catholics have sanctified this practice by organizing flower processions and praying for abundant harvests.

Since the 13th century, in May, some parishes in Spain and Portugal have organized flower processions to honor the Virgin Mary. Many writers and artists have composed songs using colors and scents of flowers to express their filial sentiments praising the noble virtues of the Virgin Mary.

Jesuit priests in Rome organized the month of honor of the Virgin Mary at the student residence of the Congregation. Upon returning, these students spread the celebration

of Flower Month in their hometown. Therefore, this custom is developed in many places.

In the 14th century, Dominican priest Henri Suzo, on the first day of May, offered special homage to the Virgin Mary and decorated the statue of the Virgin with flowers.



Saint Philip Neri, on May 1, gathered children around the altar of Our Lady, so that with the spring flowers, He offered to Our Lady the virtues still hidden in their young hearts.

In the early 17th century, in Naples, Italy, in the church dedicated to St. Clara of the Franciscan nuns, the month of Mary was publicly celebrated: Every afternoon there was adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and singing to the Virgin Mary. From then on, the organization of special worship activities during the month of Mary quickly spread throughout the parishes.

In 1654, Father Nadasi, a Jesuit, published a pamphlet advising the faithful to set aside one month each year to venerate the Mother of God.

In the early 19th century, all parishes in the Church solemnly organized the celebration of the Virgin Mary in May, the month dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Churches have priests who preach devotion to the Virgin Mary. Father Chardon had much to do with this. Not only did he make the fervor of the month of Mary popular in France but also in all other Catholic countries.

In 1815, Pope Pius VII encouraged devotion to Mary during the month of May.

Sincerely in Christ, Very Reverend Christopher Hai Tran, Rector

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