

## May Crowning of Mary

The custom of the May crowning of a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a beautiful devotion.

There is a lot of flexibility regarding the rite, and it can be adapted to many different circumstances and situations depending on whether the crowning is done in a parish, a school or classroom, or even in the family.

If the statue of Mary to be crowned is not already in a fixed place, an image may be set up on some suitable support. Those participating in the crowning may process to the image carrying flowers and singing appropriate Marian hymns before placing their bouquets at Mary's feet.

The rite may consist of hymns, prayers, and maybe an act of consecration to Our Lady.

The climax of the celebration is the moment when the one of those present places a crown of flowers on Mary's head accompanied by a traditional hymn to the Blessed Mother.

After the crowning, the person leading the event concludes with a suitable prayer. If he is a priest or deacon, he may impart a blessing.

Regarding the harmony that should reign between the demands of the liturgy and the celebration of May, the Holy See's Directory of Popular Piety says the following in No. 191:

"In many cases, the solution would seem to lie in harmonizing the content of the 'Marian months' with the concomitant season of the Liturgical Year. For example, since the month of May largely corresponds with the fifty days of Easter, the pious exercises practiced at this time could emphasize Our Lady's participation in the Paschal mystery (cf. John 19, 25-27), and the Pentecost event (cf. Acts 1, 14) with which the Church begins: Our Lady journeys with the Church having shared in the novum of the Resurrection, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The fifty days are also a time for the celebration of the Sacraments of Christian initiation and of the mystagogy. The pious exercises connected with the month of May could easily highlight the earthly role played by the glorified Queen of Heaven, here and now, in the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist."

From the EWTN website