

ORIGIN OF MOTHER'S DAY

The "Mother's Day" concept has a long history of religious connections which in modern times seem to have been predominantly Christian.

In ancient Greece, the idea of paying tribute to motherhood was given expression with a regular festival tantamount to mother-worship. Formal ceremonies to Cybele or Rhea, the "Great Mother of the gods," were performed on the Ides of March throughout Asia Minor .

For Christianity, the concept seems to date back to the establishment of England's "Mothering Sunday," a custom of the people which provided that one attend the mother-church in which he was baptized on Mid-Lent Sunday. Gifts were to be offered at the altar to the church and to worshippers' mothers. The concept was divorced of any "mother-worship," but nevertheless perpetuated its religious association.

U.S. observance of Mother's Day, too, has been characterized by church ties from the start. The first general observance of the occasion was in the churches of Philadelphia after Miss Anne Jarvis campaigned for a holiday for mothers over 100 years ago. —*Christianity Today*, date reference edited

(The observance of Mother's Day has caught on worldwide, as many nations, the world over, have set aside a day to give honor to mothers. To me, it is doubtful that any others have as much influence upon us—and consequently upon the world—as have mothers. —Ron)