

M. 12. 56

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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION DAY

As every year, on the Immaculate Conception Day, the 8th of December, Saturday morning, a traditional flower homage was paid to the Madonna's statue in Rome at piazza di Spagna.

The devotional ceremony began with the laying of a flower wreath on the top of the statue: at 8.00 in the morning a unit of firemen arrived at the foot of the column with a fire-ladder, and one man climbed up to the statue with the wreath.

Then several representatives of religious institutes arriving in procession, laid down their flowers at the foot of the column.

At 9.30 arrived also the Mayor of Rome Hon. Tupini with the members of the town hall, and then Cardinal Micara, the Vicar of His Santity, and the Archbishops of Rome, while special religious service was held. Intervened also the Ambassador of Spain to the Holy See.

At 11 arrived a special procession of maimed children (either on foot or carried by perambulators) of Don Carlo Gnocchi Institutes led by their teachers, for a special prayer.

All through the day people as well as officials laid down their flower homage among religious music and songs.

Such tradition goes back to about one century.

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