



Adsum

Adsum is published by the seminarians of **Mater Dei Seminary** for the enjoyment of our families, friends, and benefactors.

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

One of the many highlights of the past month of May was the blessing of Mary Immaculate Queen Church in Rathdrum, Idaho, on the feast of Our Lady's Queenship, May 31. This church was originally built 50 years ago and has been under major reconstruction for over a year to provide for greater expansion. Prior to the blessing ceremony, large, beautiful Stations of the Cross were blessed and erected. This was followed by the solemn chanting of Vespers by the priests and major and minor seminarians. Following the blessing of the church, a Solemn Pontifical Mass was offered, assisted by Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI, pastor of the church; Fr. Casimir Puskorius, CMRI, pastor of the neighboring Mount St. Michael's parish; and a number of other priests who came to attend these special ceremonies. Mary Immaculate Queen Church is the original church for the Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen (CMRI), which was established in 1967.

Also located with Mary Immaculate Queen Church is St. Joseph's Minor Seminary. Nestled in the mountains of northern Idaho, the minor seminary is ideally located and breathes a wonderful atmosphere of peace and solitude. Any young men of high school age who are interested to visit the minor seminary in order to find out if they might have a calling to the priesthood or religious life should contact Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI.

During this summer, three of our seminarians will

continue their studies in preparation for their priestly ordinations this coming December. So after a brief respite from classes in early May, they will back to the books this month of June.

As we look forward to the end of summer and a new scholastic year for our seminary, we have a number of new vocations, including a young man from Scotland whose family I met in Edinburgh when I administered Confirmation there two years ago. This family's journey from

Mormonism to traditional Catholicism is nothing less than miraculous and is a great reminder that, despite location and circumstances, the true Church is visible and men of good will can find it with the help of God's grace.

On a more temporal note, no sooner had the Missouri River water level gone down and our interstates in and about Omaha opened for travel, successive storms have returned to the Midwest and flooded our roadways again. Simply put, it is a small cross for us to carry to travel alternate routes, and the speculation is that the flooding may last until November!

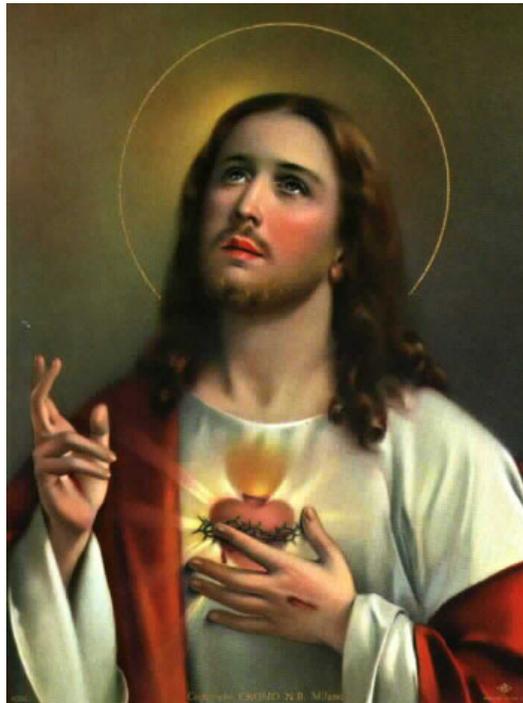
During these hot months of summer, let us always be mindful

of Our Lady's words at Fatima when she warned that "certain styles and fashions would be introduced that would gravely offend her Divine Son" and that "more souls go to hell for sins of the flesh than for any other reason." Let us never forget the importance of modesty in dress and avoidance of occasions of sin.

May all of you have a safe and enjoyable summer!

With our prayers and blessing,

Most Rev. Mark A. Pivarunas, CMRI





The Blessing of Mary Immaculate Queen Church in Rathdrum, Idaho





St. Anthony Guide—S.A.G.

The origin of the initials "S.A.G." and why they are often marked on envelopes is this:

A Spanish merchant named Antonio Dante left Spain for South America in 1729 to establish a business in Lima, Peru. His wife, who remained in Spain, wrote a number of letters to him without receiving a reply. After many months full of worry and with the utmost faith and simplicity, she brought a letter with her to the Church of St. Francis at Oviedo. (St. Francis and St. Anthony were close friends and companions during their lifetime.)

In the church there was a large statue of St. Anthony, and she placed a letter to her husband into his outstretched hand and prayed the following prayer with confidence, asking for his heavenly intercession:

"St. Anthony, I pray to thee; let this letter reach him and obtain for me a speedy reply."

The next day she returned to the church and saw that her letter was still there. Weeping in frustration that her letter had not been delivered, she attracted the attention of the Brother sacristan who listened to her story. Afterward, he told her that he had tried to remove the letter but could not, and he asked the lady if she would try to remove it. She tried, and she did so with ease.

The letter she retrieved from the hand of the statue of

St. Anthony was not the one that she placed there the day before; it was a letter from her husband. As she removed the letter from his hand, three hundred golden coins fell from the sleeve of the statue.

Astonished, a number of the friars were called and ran to the scene and waited while the miraculous letter was opened. The letter was dated July 23, 1729, and read:

"My dearest wife. For some time I have been expecting a letter from you, and I have been greatly troubled and concerned at not hearing from you. But at last your letter has come, and given me joy. It was a Father of the Order of St. Francis who brought it to me. You complain that I have left your letters unanswered. I assure you that when I did not receive any from you I believed you must be dead, and so you may imagine my happiness at the arrival of your letter. I answer you now by the same religious Father, and send you three hundred golden crowns [coins], which should suffice for your support until my approaching return.

In the hope of soon being with you, I pray God for you, and I commend myself to my dear patron St. Anthony, and ardently desire that you may continue to send me tidings of yourself.

*Your most affectionate,
Antonio Dante"*

Father Connell Answers Moral Questions

by Very Rev. Francis J. Connell, C.S.S.R., S.T.D., LL.D., L.H.D.

REPETITION OF VIATICUM

Question: Since a person in danger of death has a right to receive the Viaticum every day as long as the danger continues (Can. 864, Par. 3), has a parish priest an obligation to administer the Viaticum daily at the request of such a person?

Answer: A parish priest is bound to administer the sacraments to his people whenever they lawfully request them (Can. 467, Par. 1); and he must be especially solicitous to assist them with the sacraments when they are in danger of death (Can. 468, Par. 1).

A priest is certainly bound *sub gravi* to administer the Viaticum to a person in danger of death, when it is being conferred for the first time. The present question, however, deals with the reception of Holy Communion on subsequent days during the same danger of death. As the questioner notes, it is lawful and fitting (*et licet et decet*) for a person in danger of death to continue to receive the Holy Eucharist even daily after the first reception of the Viaticum, if a prudent confessor so advises (Can. 864, Par. 3).

However, it is certain that the laws governing these subsequent communions are surely not the same as those regulating the first reception of the Viaticum. Thus, there is no *obligation* for the sick person to receive the Blessed Sacrament as Viaticum in the course of the same illness presuming that the first reception was a worthy communion. Again, while the administration of the Viaticum is a function reserved to the pastor (Can. 850), any priest may administer these subsequent communions privately (Can. 849, Par. 1). Consequently, the pastor is surely not bound as strictly to administer the Blessed Sacrament on subsequent days as he was the first Holy Communion after the danger of death began—which alone is called the Viaticum in the strict sense (Cf. Vermeersch, *Theologia Moralis* [Bruges, 1927], III, n. 387).

On the other hand, the pastor undoubtedly has a graver obligation to bring Holy Communion frequently after the first Viaticum to a person in danger of death than to an invalid not in danger of death, presuming that both are equally desirous of receiving the Blessed Eucharist as frequently as possible. This brings us to the question which is the key to the solution of our correspondent's problem: "How frequently may a critically ill person *legitimately (or reasonably)* ask for Holy Communion after the first Viaticum?" It is impossible to lay down hard and fast rules because so many circumstances have to be taken into consideration, such as the distance the priest must travel, the number of sick persons in the same situation among his flock desirous of frequent Communion, the proximity of the sick person to death, etc. Generally speaking, however, I am inclined to believe that if the distance is short, and the number of cases of this kind in the parish is small, a priest would be bound to bring Holy Communion at least once a week to one desirous of this spiritual boon. Even if the distance to be travelled is great or the number of similar cases in the parish is large, the administration of Holy Communion once in two weeks would not be too much to demand of a priest.

Treating this question, Fr. Davis, S.J., says: "Daily Viaticum should be received, if reasonably possible, for if daily Communion is ever to be urged, it is to be urged then. Nevertheless, the pastor who has a parish to serve, and perhaps several sick to visit, will be unable to administer daily Viaticum to all, unless the sick are very few. He may, however, find it possible to administer it once a week to each patient. Considering the immense help and consolation derived by the sick from the Blessed Sacrament, the pastor will be more solicitous in attending the sick than those who are well; to neglect the sick after the last sacraments have been administered is a serious neglect of duty" (*Moral and Pastoral Theology* [London, 1945], III, 228).

Apart from the question of obligation, the truly zealous priest will endeavor to fulfill the request of any of his parishioners approaching death and anxious to receive daily the strengthening food of Our Lord's Body and Blood.

Adsum, a publication by the seminarians of **MATER DEI SEMINARY** for the reading enjoyment of friends and benefactors, is sent free of charge to all who request it. If you are interested, please provide your name and mailing address to:

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