

# **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,

A most blessed and grace-filled Easter season to all of you! It goes without saying that the sacred ceremonies of Holy Week from Palm Sunday to Tenebrae on Wednesday in Holy Week, to the Mass of Chrism with the blessing of Holy Oils on Holy Thursday morning and the evening Mass of the Last Supper with the washing of the feet, to the sacred liturgy on Good Friday and finally to the Easter vigil are the most significant and elaborate of the entire liturgical year.

What better training and preparation for the priesthood is there for our seminarians than to assist at the solemn ceremonies and serve in the various liturgical positions. One day as priests our seminarians will perform these same sacred rites and will be quite familiar with the liturgy of Holy Week after having served for six years in the seminary.



*Fr. Geckle, Fr. Anaya, and Fr. Gronenthal  
prepare to solemnly chant the  
Passion of St. Luke*



*The priests and seminarians chant the beautiful psalms and lessons of Tenebrae on Wednesday of Holy Week*

year, there is a much shorter period between Easter Week and the conclusion of our seminary classes and the advancement of our seminarians toward the priesthood. In three weeks, four of our seminarians will receive First Clerical Tonsure, another four of our seminarians will receive their last two minor orders of Exorcist and Acolyte, one of our religious seminarians will receive the Subdiaconate and another religious seminarian will receive the Diaconate. Please remember them in your prayers as they build their spiritual foundation for the holy priesthood.

As we well know, the month of April is dedicated to the Most Blessed Sacrament. Let us ever be mindful of our Risen Saviour's Real Presence on our altars and visit Him often. From the tabernacle, Our Lord calls to us, "Come to Me all you that labor and are burdened and I will refresh you!"

With my prayers and blessing,

Most Rev. Mark A. Pivarunas, CMRI



*The Pontifical Mass of Chrism with the blessing of the Holy Oils  
on Holy Thursday morning*



*Top left: Blessing of the Paschal Fire  
and Candle*

*Bottom left: Chanting of the lessons  
for the Easter Vigil*

*Above: the Blessing of the Baptismal water*







*Josef Weissensteiner from Austria, studying under Fr. Abrahamowicz, receives the first two minor orders of Porter and Lector*



*Blessing of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Harmony, Minnesota, on the Feast of St. Joseph*



*Mater Dei Academy 2017 High School Archery State Champions*

# ***Father Connell Answers Moral Questions***

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

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## **HEARING MASS OVER THE RADIO**

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**Question:** I have been informed that a Catholic who is so physically handicapped that he cannot go to church can fulfil his obligation of Sunday Mass and share in all the benefits of the Holy Sacrifice by listening devoutly to a Mass broadcast over the radio. Can we make this statement to the patients of a hospital where a loud-speaking system has been installed in every room, so that the patients can follow the Mass that is being celebrated in the chapel?

**Answer:** As far as the fulfilment of the obligation of Sunday Mass is concerned, one does not comply with it by hearing a broadcast of the sacred function over the radio. The fulfilment of this obligation requires physical presence at the Holy Sacrifice, or at least conjunction with the group actually present (e.g. in the case where the crowd is so great that it reaches beyond the doors of the church). Of course, this is a matter that depends on the legislative enactments of the Church. The Pope could decree that the obligation is fulfilled by listening devoutly to a broadcast, just as he has ruled that one may gain the indulgence of the papal blessing over the radio (*AAS*, XXXI [1939], 277). I have heard it stated that during the civil war in Spain the Holy Father announced that the Catholics of that country could satisfy their Sunday obligation by hearing Mass over the radio. But, as far as I know, there has been no general concession to this effect.

As to the particular case presented by the questioner, it is possible that there is sufficient conjunction between the hospital rooms and the chapel to provide the patients with the required physical presence, particularly if the hospital is small, and the rooms are on the same corridor as the chapel. But, even in that event, the patients should not be given the impression that by merely listening to a broadcast Mass they fulfil their obligation. Some of them would doubtless carry this erroneous impression with them after their discharge from the hospital, if the matter were not clearly explained.

It should be emphasized, however, that one may participate in the benefits of the Mass without being actually present—namely, by directing one's intention and devotion to the sacred rite. By hearing Mass over the radio one can certainly foster his devotion, and thus profit considerably from the offering of the Holy Sacrifice. Indeed, it could happen that one who participates in the Holy Sacrifice in this manner will gain much more benefit than many of those who are actually present.

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