



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,

By the time this issue of the *Adsum* arrives, I will be in Europe to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation for the faithful of Fr. Rissling, Fr. Heyne, and Fr. Abrahamowitz. This will take me to Italy, Germany, Scotland, and England. Please pray that the trip may be safe.

On May 11, feast of the Apostles Ss. Philip and James, Rev. Mr. Timothy Geckle will be ordained to the priesthood; Frater Francis Crawford, CMRI will receive the diaconate; and other seminarians will receive first clerical tonsure or minor orders. Let us pray that they make a good retreat in preparation for a worthy reception of these orders.

This past March, there was the blessing of a new church in Salem, New Hampshire, just across the border from Massachusetts and over a half hour drive from our old chapel in Boston. Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI and Fr. Robert Letourneau alternate to provide the Mass and Sacraments there every weekend. This new church, which is farther north than the old chapel, is closer to our new church in Maine, and this facilitates the priests'

travel each Sunday.

April is the month dedicated to the Most Blessed Sacrament. Let us never forget that the Holy Eucharist must be the center of our lives. Under the appearance of bread and wine, Our Divine Lord, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, is offered in Holy Mass (the renewal of the Sacrifice of Calvary); is received in Holy Communion that we might have life in us; and is ever present on our altars that we might be consoled and strengthened by Him. Great indeed is our privilege to have His Real Presence in these days of the Great Apostasy when "the abomination of desolation" (the Novus Ordo "Mass") is standing in the holy place.

When the Angel of Portugal appeared to the Fatima children, he taught them a beautiful prayer of adoration and reparation to atone for all the "outrages, sacrileges, and indifference by

which He is offended" in the Sacrament of His love. Let us seek, like Francisco Marto, to "console the Hidden Jesus" by the devout reception of Holy Communion and by frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

With my prayers and blessing,
Most Rev. Mark A. Pivarunas, CMRI





The chanting of Tenebrae, Matins and Lauds for Holy Thursday, anticipated in the evening of Wednesday in Holy Week



The chanting of the Solemn orations on Good Friday



The blessing of the Paschal fire and the Paschal candle on Holy Saturday Night



The Blessing of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Salem, New Hampshire



Mater Dei Academy archery team had the two highest scores for the state tournament and won trophies in all three divisions — elementary, middle school, and high school

Father Connell Answers Moral Questions

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

THE PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT

Question: I have heard this procedure suggested to confessors for the treatment of a penitent strongly addicted to some bad habit, such as masturbation: Do not require him to have the purpose of giving up the habit permanently. Tell him to limit himself to the purpose of abstaining from it for one week only, and then demand a promise that he will return to confession in a week. May this procedure be lawfully followed by a confessor?

Answer: In order that a person may receive the sacrament of Penance fruitfully, he must have the purpose of not sinning (at least mortally) again—in the words of the Council of Trent, *propositum non peccandi de caetero* (purpose of not sinning in future). This means that he must here and now have the will to endure all evils rather than again commit a mortal sin. It does not mean that he must be certain that he will not in future change his mind and sin again. On the contrary, he may regard it at least as probable that this will happen. But, as far as his present dispositions are concerned, it is necessary that he have the firm purpose to give up mortal sin forever (*de caetero*), and not merely for a limited time. Hence, if a penitent has the purpose of giving up mortal sin for a week only, he lacks one of the requirements for a fruitful confession. This is very evident, of course, if his intention beyond the limited period is a positive resolution of giving up mortal sin forever.

The confessor may indeed—once he has sufficient assurance that the penitent has the requisite purpose *non peccandi de caetero* (not sinning again)—recommend that he concentrate his efforts on avoiding the repetition of the bad habit for a week, without concerning himself explicitly with the weeks and years ahead, but trusting in God's help. However, this is a very different attitude from the definite purpose of avoiding sin for a single week.

COUGH DROPS JUST BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION

Question: May cough drops be permitted up to the time of Holy Communion in the case of one who is troubled with a persistent cough?

Answer: I believe that this question can be answered unhesitatingly in the affirmative. A priest, for example, who has to preach at his Mass and is troubled with a severe cough can take a cough drop before the sermon.

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:

MATER DEI SEMINARY
7745 Military Avenue
Omaha NE 68134-3356