



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,

With the return of Fr. Nino Molina from the Philippines (his R-1 Visa to the United States has finally been approved) and with the recent ordination of Fr. Timothy Geckle, we are in a better position to cover more adequately all of our Mass centers in the Midwest and to offer the Holy Sacrifice more frequently at our numerous missions. In addition to the two priests, it is a great help on Sundays to have Frater Francis Crawford, CMRI (our new deacon) help with the distribution of Holy Communion at our Sunday Masses. In time, he will also administer the Sacrament of Baptism and will occasionally give sermons.



Fr. Timothy Geckle gives his parents his priestly blessing for the first time



Frater Alphonsus Maria, CMRI renews his religious vows

Summer time is always a time of travel for me to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation throughout the United States. I try to limit these travels during the seminary scholastic year in order to maintain continuity in our classes, and therefore I schedule Confirmations no more than once or twice a month on weekends when seminary classes are in session. As always, our religious seminarians who remain at the seminary for the summer will be occupied with a multiplicity of maintenance work not only in Omaha but also at our other churches and chapels. Busy as we are, we follow a definite schedule for morning meditation, Holy Mass, the Divine Office, the Rosary, and spiritual reading. One of the beautiful considerations during our annual retreat for the priests and religious was that God does

not require us to do extraordinary things but to do our ordinary duties as perfectly as we can. This is especially true for our spiritual obligations. When it's time to pray, we should be focused on our prayers and not on duties and obligations and affairs that we must attend to later. St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop of Milan, always made time for his spiritual exercises, despite his tremendous obligations. He noted that when one puts prayer first and gives God the best part of the day, He will be with him and assist him in the accomplishment of his responsibilities and duties. Sacred Scripture reminds us that "unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain that build it, and unless the Lord keeps the city they watch in vain that keep it."

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



Frater Francis Crawford, CMRI chants the Gospel for the first time at the Mass of Corpus Christi



First Solemn High Mass of Fr. Timothy Geckle

The Pope Speaks

Bull *Cum Ex Apostolatus* [16 February 1559]

-Pope Paul IV

—“Further, if ever it should appear that any bishop (even one acting as an archbishop, patriarch or primate), or a cardinal of the Roman Church, or a legate (as mentioned above), or **even the Roman Pontiff (whether prior to his promotion to cardinal, or prior to his election as Roman Pontiff), has beforehand deviated from the Catholic faith or fallen into any heresy**, We enact, decree, determine and define:

—“**Such promotion or election in and of itself**, even with the agreement and unanimous consent of all the cardinals, **shall be null, legally invalid and void.**

—“**It shall not be possible for such a promotion or election to be deemed valid or to be valid, neither through reception of office, consecration, subsequent administration, or possession, nor even through the putative enthronement of a Roman Pontiff himself, together with the veneration and obedience accorded him by all.**

—“**Such promotion or election, shall not through any lapse of time in the foregoing situation, be considered even partially legitimate in any way. . . .**

—“Each and all of the words, as acts, laws, appointments of those so promoted or elected — and indeed, whatsoever flows therefrom — shall be lacking in force, and shall grant no stability and legal power to anyone whatsoever.

—“Those so promoted or elected, by that very fact and without the need to make any further declaration, shall be deprived of any dignity, position, honor, title, authority, office and power.”

Si Papa [1198] - Pope Innocent III

—“The Pope should not flatter himself about his power nor should he rashly glory in his honour and high estate, because the less he is judged by man, the more he is judged by God. **Still the less can the Roman Pontiff glory because he can be judged by men, or rather, can be shown to be already judged, if for example he should wither away into heresy; because he who does not believe is already judged.** In such a case it should be said of him: ‘If salt should lose its savor, it is good for nothing but to be cast out and trampled under foot by men.’”

Audio CDs of the First Solemn High Mass of Fr. Timothy Geckle are now available

On the occasion of the First Solemn High Mass, numerous choir members from our churches throughout the Midwest combined to sing under the direction of Fr. Michael Anaya in a most magnificent and inspirational chorus.

In joyous remembrance of these occasions for those who were present and as an inspiration for those who were not, Mater Dei Seminary makes available this CD recording for \$12 dollars each (which includes shipping and handling).

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| 1. Haec Dies | 9. Benedictus |
| 2. Kyrie (<i>Mass of Our Lady Queen of Franciscan Order</i>) | 10. Agnus Dei |
| 3. Gloria | 11. Tantum Ergo |
| 4. Credo | 12. Dixit Maria |
| 5. Ave Maria (Arcadelt) | 13. Tu Es Sacerdos |
| 6. O Bone Jesu | 14. Cantate Dominum |
| 7. Ave Maris Stella (Piel) | 15. Felix Namque Es |
| 8. Sanctus | 16. Laudate Dominum |

Father Connell Answers Moral Questions

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

REPRESENTATIONS OF THE SACRED HEART

Question: Are pictures and statues of the Sacred Heart permitted, if they portray Our Lord with a crown on His Head or on His Heart?

Answer: The Church has decreed that an image or picture of the Sacred Heart shall not be exposed for public cult unless the Person of Our Lord is portrayed. In other words, the Heart alone is not to be proposed for public veneration, though Our Saviour may be represented as showing His Heart. The reason for this legislation is that the Church wishes to make sure that the faithful adore the physical Heart of Our Saviour, not because of any intrinsic dignity it might possess as a bodily organ, but because it is hypostatically united to the Person of the Word. However, as far as I know, there is no prohibition of a picture or statue that would represent either the Heart or the Person of Christ wearing a crown—either a crown of glory, to represent His royal majesty, or a crown of thorns to represent His passion, in which the love of His Sacred Heart for mankind was so vividly demonstrated.

SEPARATION OF SIAMESE TWINS

Question: In recent years, we have read of operations performed to separate Siamese twins. What is to be said of the morality of such operations?

Answer: An operation to separate two persons physically united is surely lawful if it involves little danger to the life of either. Some risk may be accepted because of the benefit to both consequent on their separation. Indeed, I would be inclined to hold that even if there is considerable risk, an operation may be performed because it is gravely burdensome for two persons to go through life physically bound together. This follows from the principle that a person may have an operation performed on himself, even though it involves considerable risk, if otherwise he would be condemned to great suffering the rest of his life. In the case of infants, the parents are empowered to make this decision. It must be emphasized, however, that we are concerned with a case in which there is a good chance for the survival of both even though there is also real probability that one or both will die as a result of the operation.

However, if it is practically certain that one of the pair will die, even though the other will very probably be assured of a normal life, the separation of the two may not be attempted. For, in this case, the operation is the direct killing of one of the twins; and the direct killing of an innocent person is never permitted, whatever benefit may come to someone else. An example of this would seem to be twins who are separate down to the chest, but have only one body in common below that point. If one of them were severed at the chest, in such wise that the other would then possess as his own the portion of the body from the chest down, the operation would certainly be immoral, since the child thus amputated could not survive. The only solution is to provide these little ones with at least the ordinary means of surviving as long as God wills to allow them to live.

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