



# 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,

May 11, feast of the Apostles Philip and James, was certainly a joyous occasion as five of our seminarians received First Clerical Tonsure (Fratr Alphonsus Golpe CMRI, from the Philippines; Jeremy Saunders from Canada; Bradley Parker from Australia; Tien Lee from California; and Stephen Sandquist from Nebraska). Frater Augustine Walz, CMRI (Wisconsin) received the last two minor orders of Exorcist and Acolyte, and Rev. Frater Francis Crawford, CMRI (California) received the Diaconate. However, the highlight of the Pontifical Mass and ordinations was the priestly ordination of Fr. Timothy Geckle (Ohio). We are most grateful to Almighty God and to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, for the vocations of these young men.

This past seminary year was grace-filled as our seminarians grew both spiritually and academically. The words of the psalmist, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity and harmony," were certainly verified. Although the seminarians have their faults and failings, the spirit of charity was prevalent through the daily grind of a schedule of prayer, classes, studies, work, and recreation. Thank you once again for your spiritual and financial support of Mater Dei Seminary! Always be assured of our prayers.



*The Ordinandi await their call to the reception of Orders and their response "Adsum"*

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



*Seventeen priests participated in the Solemn Pontifical Mass and Ordinations*





*The cutting of hair at the Tonsure  
of our new Clerics*



*Investiture of the surplice, symbolizing  
putting on "the new man"*



*Frater Augustine Walz, CMRI receives the  
minor order of Acolyte*



*Frater Francis Crawford, CMRI  
receives the Diaconate*





*The priests join in the imposition of hands at the priestly ordination of Fr. Timothy Geckle*



*The newly ordained priest concelebrates with the Bishop during the ordination Mass*



*Final admonition to those who advanced to the priesthood*

# *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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## THE PROXIMATE MATTER OF BAPTISM

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**Question:** I have been told that a certain priest baptizes in this manner: He simply dips his thumb into the baptismal water and traces the sign of the cross three times on the forehead of the recipient, while he says the words of the form. What is to be said of this method of baptizing?

**Answer:** It seems so incredible that any priest could undertake such a procedure that I would say, in the first place, that I hope the information given to our questioner was incorrect. Certainly, the method of baptizing described in the question constitutes a doubtful administration of the Sacrament of Baptism, as decisions of the Church indicate [Cf. F. M. Capello, *De sacramentis* (Rome, 1945), I, n. 122]. For the certain administration of this essential sacrament the water must *flow* over the head of the recipient, and any priest who would substitute a doubtful method of baptizing, such as our questioner describes, would be guilty of a grave sin.

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## HOW SOON IS *QUAM PRIMUM*?

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**Question:** According to Canon 770, infants of Catholics should be baptized as soon as possible. How is this phrase *as soon as possible (quam primum)* to be interpreted in definite terms of time?

**Answer:** Theologians differ widely in their attempt to state in definite terms of time just how soon after birth the child of Catholic parents must be baptized in order to fulfill the prescription of Canon 770, which commands that the sacrament be conferred *quam primam*. Some have believed that a delay of more than three days would be a transgression of this law; others have favored the opinion that no matter how great the delay the parents are not guilty of grave sin unless the child is in danger of death or there is a particular diocesan ruling on the period of time within which the sacrament must be conferred. I believe that most theologians nowadays would regard the former view too strict and the latter too lenient. Since the Code requires pastors and preachers to admonish the faithful frequently of their grave obligation to have their children baptized as soon as possible, and a definite statement is surely desirable, I believe that a priest can reasonably state that three weeks is the longest period to which the baptism can be deferred without some (at least venial) sin, and that a delay of an additional week (apart from some very good reason) would render the parents guilty of grave sin. Of course, if the child is in danger of death, the sacrament must be conferred at once, and if the local Ordinary has made a ruling on the matter it must be obeyed. It should be noted that in a recent decision the Holy Office emphasized the prescription of the Code pertinent to this point, and complained that many Catholics are unnecessarily deferring the baptism of their children beyond a reasonable time.

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