



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,

This issue of the *Adsum* will be sent earlier in May in order to have one less matter to deal with as Mater Dei Seminary concludes its classes and prepares for ordinations on May 11, feasts of the Apostles Ss. Philip and James.

In my recent visit to Europe to administer Confirmation, I was reminded of the great need for priestly vocations. From northern Italy around Venice, Fr. Florian Abrahamowicz provides for the spiritual needs of the faithful in several Mass centers. During this visit I met with many traditional Catholics throughout northern Italy who repeat the same request as here in the States, please send us more priests!

I also had the opportunity during my short stay to visit the basilicas of my patron saints—St. Mark in Venice and St. Anthony in Padua. Furthermore, with Fr. Abrahamowicz's assistance, I was able to visit my maternal relatives in Salcedo, Italy, just thirty miles west of Father's chapel in the foothills of the Italian Alps and see the old stone house where my mother was born. Josef



Weissenheimer, our Austrian seminarian, drove me to Germany to meet the faithful of Fr. Eugen Rissling and Fr. Johannes Heyne. It didn't seem like four and a half years since my last visit; however, I readily noticed how quickly the children have grown. After a few days in Germany, I flew to Scotland for two days to provide Mass and Confirmation. It was truly amazing to hear how the grace of God



Confirmations in Treviso, Italy, for the faithful of Fr. Florian Abrahamowicz



*Mass and Confirmations
in Darching, Germany*



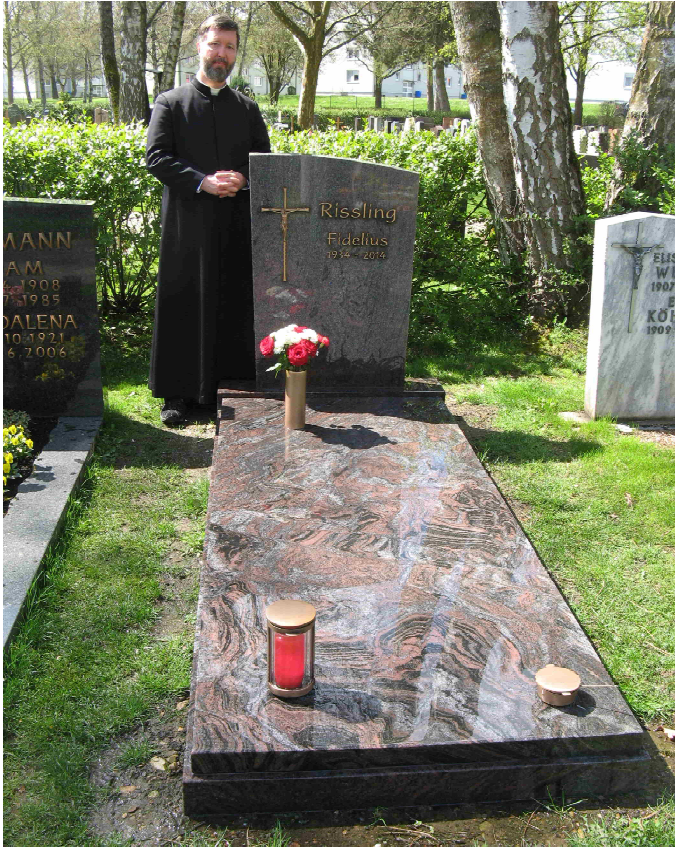
*Fr. Johannes Heyne in his new chapel,
which he himself constructed*



Mass and Confirmations in Ulm, Germany



Confirmations in Edinburgh, Scotland



Fr. Eugen Rissling visits the grave of his dear father Fidelius Rissling

brought about the conversion of one of the families in Scotland from Mormonism to traditional Catholicism. This is just another example of how God continues to lead men of good will to a knowledge of the true Faith.

From Scotland I traveled down to Ely, England, where I had Mass and Confirmations for the faithful of the late Fr. Oswald Baker. It had been twenty years since I had the privilege to visit this remarkable and venerable old priest who was known throughout England for his faithfulness to the true Mass and the traditional Faith. During my visit to Ely, I brought with me a precious memento which Fr. Baker had received from Senora Marto in the 1950's when he visited Fatima—Jacinta Marto's rosary. After Fr. Baker passed away, Kathleen Hatfield, one of Father's coordinators, acquired the rosary from him; and after Kathleen passed away from cancer, her daughter Emily was kind enough to give me this wonderful keepsake. After Mass and Confirmations in Ely, the faithful were able to handle this rosary.

Our seminarians have just completed their retreat in preparation for Holy Orders and anxiously await their advancement to the Holy Priesthood. Please remember them in your prayers.

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



Mass and Confirmations in Ely, England

Father Connell Answers Moral Questions

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

ADOLESCENT COMPANY KEEPING

Question: In our high schools nowadays-Catholic schools as well as public schools-it is not unusual for a boy and a girl to associate with each other so frequently and so exclusively, at dances, the movies, etc., that they are regarded as “keeping company.” What statement according to Catholic moral principles can a priest make regarding this situation?

Answer: A priest need not hesitate to state that a boy and girl who indulge in this type of frequent and exclusive association are running the risk of falling into grave sin and hence are committing sin. It is not indeed wrong for high school boys and girls to associate with each other in decent amusements and social gatherings, as long as these are kept within the bounds of moderation. Boy and girl friendships are perfectly normal and innocent when they are not exclusive or when each associates with the group, not merely with an individual. But, surely, there should be no question of “company keeping” in the accepted sense between a boy and a girl in high school grades. For company keeping is a form of association permitted only to those who look forward to marriage within a reasonably short time; it is surely not the proper thing for those who will not ordinarily be ready for marriage for at least five or six years. Furthermore, boys and girls who cultivate this type of intimate friendship cannot devote their time and attention as they should to their studies. Above all, when an adolescent boy and girl are constantly together, fostering an ardent love for each other, their passions are likely to be aroused, and grave sin may follow. Even a friendship begun in perfect innocence may eventuate in most disastrous consequences. Priests having the care of high school boys and girls, as pastors or sodality directors, can enunciate this doctrine-however severe it may seem in this age of loose morals-with the assurance that it is based on sound Catholic principles of moral theology. It would not be correct to say that there is in all cases a *proximate* occasion of sin, though this is often present. (I am not considering the case of older boys and girls in high school who are planning marriage in the near future. They can be permitted to keep company, with proper safeguards.)

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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