

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,

As this issue of the seminary newsletter is written, our classes in both the seminary and academy are in the process of being concluded. This Saturday, May 16th, some of our seminarians will receive some of the minor orders and on the following day, our academy will have commencement ceremonies for our senior graduates.

Our parishioners at Mary Immaculate Church here in Omaha witness not just the physical development but more importantly the spiritual development of our seminarians and the students of our academy as each scholastic year is completed.

Of all the necessary elements for our seminarians to advance to the priesthood and our young students to develop into good Catholic men and women, the most essential element is of course God's grace which is abundantly available through daily Mass and Holy Communion, weekly Confession, the daily recitation of the Rosary, etc. For unless God's grace is active in their lives, all the instructions and academics will



The ground-breaking ceremony in Burlington, Colorado for the new facility for Sacred Heart Academy

avail nothing in their spiritual formation. This holds true for all of us. To the degree that we live a spiritual life in union with God through prayer, it is to that degree that our lives will produce the good fruits of virtue and holiness. In the Psalms, we read, "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain that build



With the generous support of Immaculate Conception Church the school construction is on schedule for completion this fall

it; and unless the Lord keeps the city, they watch in vain that keep it.”

As another scholastic year comes to an end and our seminarians and students take their summer break, it is important that they retain the good habits learned in the seminary and at school. Vacation time is a time of relaxation but not a time of neglect of our spiritual obligations; there is never a vacation from God and our obligations to Him.

Other good news is that this past March we broke ground for the building of a new facility for our school in Burlington, Colorado (Sacred Heart Academy). With the significant growth in school attendance, we have outgrown our present facilities and with the generous support of our parish, Immaculate Conception, the new facility will be completed for this fall’s school year.

At the beginning of May, Fr. Nino Molina, who had been assisting Fr. Brendan Hughes, CMRI, in St. Cloud, Minnesota, had to return to the Philippines because of complications with his visa. Please pray that he will be allowed to return as soon as his paper-



Mater Dei Academy took 2nd place in the state archery tournament and at the national tournament in Kentucky, out of 192 high schools, placed 45th

work is processed and approved. Providentially, Fray Leon OFM, from Argentina, had his visa approved to assist Fr. Luis Jurado in Denver, Colorado Springs, and Burlington, Colorado. This has really been a God send for we would have been really over extended here in the Midwest with one less priest.

As we know, May is the special month of Our Blessed Mother, and how appropriately she began her apparitions at Fatima on May 13. She came as a loving Mother concerned with the spiritual welfare of her children. How relevant is her message today of prayer, penance, sacrifice, and amendment of life—even more so than in 1917. If in 1917, Our Lady of Fatima lamented so many souls going to Hell for sins of the flesh, how much more so is that true today when technology unfortunately makes temptation to impurity so accessible. This is indeed a great tragedy that has become the downfall for most of our youth—this unsupervised and unrestricted access to the internet. How critical it is for parents to be diligent in the protection of the souls of their children from the spiritual poison of impurity. Also how important it is for our Catholic parents to inculcate in their children a sense of modesty of dress at an early age. Once again, if in 1917 Our Lady had lamented that certain styles and fashions would be introduced that would gravely offend her Divine Son, how much more offensive today. With my prayers and blessing,
Most Rev. Mark A. Pivarunas, CMRI



Our May Rosary procession to offer Our Lady her entire Psalter of 15 decades

The Golden Alphabet (collated from the *Imitation of Christ*)

All things pass away, and thou, too, along with them.

Blessed is he who shall have lived well, and have made a happy end.

Covet not that which thou mayest not have.

Do that which thou canst, and God will be with thy good will.

Ever keep in mind thy end, and that time lost returneth no more.

Fire trieth iron, and temptation a just man.

Give all for all; seek nothing, call for nothing back.

He doth much who doth well what he doeth, and regardeth rather the common good than his own will.

In the morning make thy resolution, in the evening examine thy conduct.

Judge it a great thing to be even the least in Heaven where all are great.

Keep thyself as a pilgrim and a stranger upon earth.

Let go all transitory things; seek the eternal.

Man's happiness consisteth not in many temporal things; a moderate portion sufficeth.

No man can safely speak but he who loves silence.

Oftentimes we are quite unconscious how utterly blind we are.

Put thyself always in the lowest place.

Quench thy inclinations in the beginning, and break off evil habits.

Relinquish thy desires and thou shalt find rest.

Study to do the will of another rather than thine own.

Thou wilt always rejoice in the evening, if thou spend the day profitably.

Use temporal things, but desire eternal.

Vain it is to hope in man.

We must not trust too much in ourselves.

Christ was willing to suffer and be despised, and darest thou complain?

Yea, leave vain things to vain people.

Zealously strive, habit is overcome by habit.



Fr. Ephrem Cordova, CMRI, celebrates his 25th anniversary of Priesthood with family, friends, parishioners, and fellow priests

Father Connell Answers Moral Questions

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

Preaching the Efficacy of Perfect Contrition

Question: Do you recommend that priests should frequently explain in sermons and instructions the doctrine of the efficacy of perfect contrition as a means of regaining the state of grace? If so, how would you propose this doctrine?

Answer: I strongly recommend that priests frequently instruct their people in the sound principles of Catholic theology concerning the efficacy of perfect contrition and the manner of making an act of perfect contrition. For, I am sure there are many Catholics who believe that perfect contrition takes away mortal sin and restores a person to the state of grace only when he is in danger of death and cannot get to confession. Moreover, there are doubtless many who cannot get to confession. Moreover, there are doubtless many who do not know how to make an act of perfect contrition. Hence, I suggest that priests frequently tell their people that an act of perfect contrition will take away a mortal sin at any time and not merely in a crisis. The chief points to be explained are these: Perfect contrition simply means that one is sorry for his sins (at least, his mortal sins) because sin is opposed to the goodness of God in Himself. To make an act of perfect contrition one need not exclude other motives for detesting sin, such as the fear of punishment. Perfect contrition does not necessarily include sorrow for venial sins, nor need it be accompanied by an emotional intensity. It is not difficult to make an act of perfect contrition for one who firmly believes all the doctrines of the Catholic Faith. One who seeks the pardon of mortal sin through perfect contrition must have the intention of confessing that sin the next time he receives the sacrament of Penance—not necessarily as soon as possible. In the meantime he may not receive Holy Communion, but he is in the state of grace, so that if he died suddenly he would be saved. The most practical application of this doctrine is that if a person has the misfortune to commit a mortal sin he should make an act of perfect contrition as soon as possible and thus regain the friendship of God.

Attendance at Billy Graham's Services

Question: Is a Catholic permitted to attend the "crusade" services conducted by the Evangelist, Billy Graham? Some Catholics seem to have the idea that his talks are merely lectures, containing doctrines beneficial to all, so that Catholics may attend without violating any law.

Answer : The answer to this question was given in *The American Ecclesiastical Review* for July, 1955, but in view of the aroused interest in Mr. Graham recently throughout our land, it may be profitable to repeat the substance of this reply. No doubt, Mr. Graham is a good and sincere man, and some of the doctrines he preaches are solid Christian truth. Nevertheless, the doctrinal system he upholds is erroneous. He proposes the Bible alone as the norm of Christian truth, he omits in his instructions such essential truths as the real presence of Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist and the necessity of affiliation in the Church of Christ as a means of salvation, he seems to accept the notion that it makes no difference what particular form of religion a person may accept. Hence, his services are based on essentially Protestant doctrine, and accordingly Catholics are forbidden to participate in them. To take active part in these services—for example, by singing or praying in conjunction with the Evangelist—would be active communication, something intrinsically and gravely wrong. To participate in these services passively—that is, merely by being present—would not be intrinsically wrong, but would be forbidden by the law of the Church, which prohibits even passive presence without a grave reason (Can. 1258).

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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