



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,

On October 11, we celebrate the feast of the Divine Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which is the titular feast of Mater Dei Seminary. In the past the question has been raised why the seminary was named “Mater Dei,” Mother of God.

Well, there are two reasons for this title. The first and foremost reason is that Our Divine Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest, spent thirty years in the company of His Blessed Mother. In this loving and sacred association, the Blessed Virgin Mary was so intimately connected with Him. Now, in the seminary, as our seminarians prepare to become “other Christs” through priestly ordination, they, too, in imitation of Christ, are in the “hidden life.” As they pray and study and work on their formation, who better than the Blessed Virgin Mother of God knows how to help form and prepare their souls to become living images

of her Divine Son? This is the spiritual doctrine of St. Louis De Montfort, who quotes St. Augustine that the faithful during their earthly life are: “...in this world hidden in the womb of the most holy Virgin, where they are guarded, nourished, brought up and made to grow by that good Mother until she has brought them forth...” It is to her care and protection that we commend these young men. She will assist them during the

years of seminary training to develop into worthy priests.

The second reason for the seminary title, “Mater Dei,” is that from the Divine Maternity of the Virgin Mary all her other prerogatives flow. Why was Mary immaculately conceived? The answer is that she was to be the Mother of the Incarnate Word. Why was she assumed into Heaven? The answer is that Jesus became Incarnate from her immaculate body, and that she whose body was the “Ark of the Covenant” and the “House of Gold” would not be subject to physical corruption. Whatever title of our Blessed Mother we consider, it has ultimately its basis in her Divine Maternity—that she is the Mother of God.



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One simple way to honor our Heavenly Mother is to recite the “Hail Mary” in a thoughtful and reflective manner. The first part of the “Hail Mary” repeats the joyful salutation of the Angel Gabriel, “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee...” and also the joyful salutation of St. Elizabeth, “Blessed art thou among

women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.” The second part was composed by the Church to acknowledge Mary by the one title which summarizes her highest vocation and title—the Mother of God.

Please pray to Mary, the Mother of God, for our seminarians, our future priests—and thank you so much for your prayers, sacrifices and support.

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

St. Therese of Lisieux (October 3)

excerpts from her writings

TO A SEMINARIAN:

Your lot is truly beautiful, since Our Lord has chosen it for you, and since He first touched the cup which He presents to you with His lips.

A saint has said: "The greatest honor that God can give a soul is not to give it many things, but to ask many things of it!" Jesus treats you as one of His privileged. He wills that you already begin your mission and that you save souls by suffering.

Let us work together for the salvation of souls. We have only the one day of this life to save them and thus render proofs of our love to the Lord. This day's tomorrow will be eternity, then Jesus will reward you a hundredfold for the sweet and legitimate joys you have sacrificed to Him.

ON LEAVING HOME:

Ah! If the Divine Master would let those whom you are going to leave for love of Him see the multitude of souls who will form your cortege in Heaven, they would already be repaid for the great sacrifice that your departure is going to cause them.

HER PRAYER FOR A SEMINARIAN:

Divine Jesus, hear the prayer that I address to Thee for he who wishes to be Thy missionary: keep him, in the midst of the dangers of the world, make him feel more and more the nothingness and the vanity of transient things and the joy of being able to despise them for Thy love. May his sublime apostolate be already exercised upon those who



surround him, may he be an apostle, worthy of Thy Sacred Heart...

O Mary! Sweet Queen of Carmel, to thee I entrust the soul of the future priest whose unworthy sister* I am. Deign to teach him already with what love thou didst use to touch the Divine Infant Jesus...

Likewise I ask thee to keep him always in the shade of thy virginal mantle, until the happy moment when leaving this valley of tears, he may contemplate thy splendor and enjoy through all eternity the fruits of his glorious apostolate....

*She was the spiritual sister of this seminarian.



Seminary Class of 2015

What Popes say about the Rosary

Leo XIII in *Lucunda Semper Expectatione*: "... A soul that shall devoutly repeat these prayers, that shall ponder with faith these mysteries, will, without doubt, be filled with wonder at the divine purposes in this great Virgin and in the work of the restoration of mankind."

"... It is our ardent wish that this devotion shall be restored to the place of honour; in the city and in the village, in the family and in the workshop, in the noble's house and the in the peasant's; that it should be to all a dear devotion and a noble sign of faith; that it may be a sure way to the gaining of the favor of pardon."

Leo X says "It was instituted to oppose pernicious heresiarchs and heresies."

Julius III called it "the glory of the Church."

St. Pius V: "... The darkness of heresy has been dissipated, and the light of Catholic faith has broken forth again."

Gregory XIII declared: "The Rosary had been instituted by St. Dominic to appease the anger of God and to implore the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary."

Leo XIII in *Magnae Dei Matris*: "It is impossible to say how pleasing and gratifying to her it is when we greet her with 'full of grace.'"

"... The Rosary offers an easy way to present the chief mysteries of the Christian religion and to impress them upon the mind."

"It would be utterly impossible for anyone to meditate on and attentively consider these most precious memorials of our loving Redeemer and not have a heart on fire with gratitude to Him."

Pope Sixtus V approved the ancient custom of reciting the Rosary; Gregory XIII dedicated a day under this title, which Clement VIII afterwards inscribed in the martyrology; and Clement XI extended to the Universal Church. Benedict XIII inserted the feast into the Roman Breviary.

Pope Leo XIII in *Supremi Apostolatus Officio*: "It has always been the habit of Catholics in danger and in troublous times to fly for refuge to Mary, and to seek for peace in her maternal goodness..." "... This devotion, so great and so confident, to the August Queen of Heaven, has never shone forth with such brilliance as when the militant Church of God has seemed to be endangered by the violence of heresy spread abroad, or by an intolerable moral corruption, or by the attacks of powerful enemies."

Pope Pius XI in *Ingravescentibus Maus*: "... The fathers and mothers of families particularly must give an example to their children, especially when, at sunset, they gather together after the day's work, within the domestic walls, and recite the Holy Rosary on bended knees before the image of the Virgin, together fusing voice, faith and sentiment..."

Pope Pius XII in *Ingruentium Malorum* "... We consider the Holy Rosary the most convenient and most fruitful means, as is clearly suggested by the very origin of this practice, heavenly rather than human, and by its nature..."

"... Let them strive to obtain from our most loving Mother, especially through this form of prayer, that better times may quickly return for the Church and society..."



Mater Dei Academy 2015

Father Connell Answers Moral Questions

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

CONFIRMATION OF A RETARDED CHILD

Question: May a child who is so mentally retarded that it can never reach the age of reason be confirmed? If so, may it be confirmed as soon as its affliction is recognized—even though the child is only seven or eight years old?

Answer: This question was submitted by a grieving mother, one of whose children was of the type she describes—a child who evidently would never reach the use of reason. She wished to have the little one confirmed at the age of seven, when its mental disability was definitely recognized; but her request was refused, and she was told that the child must wait for Confirmation until it reached the age usual for Confirmation in that diocese. The child died suddenly a few weeks later.

The answer to this question is explicitly given by Suarez, who says:

“It must be held that such mental defectives *perpetuo amentes* (permanently insane) are not to be deprived of this sacrament (Confirmation). Indeed, in their case it is not to be deferred, as in the case of infants, because there is no expectation of a condition in which they can be better disposed. For infants are not deprived of this sacrament, but it is merely delayed for them, so that a more suitable time will be awaited. But these persons (perpetually deprived of the use of reason) would either have to be entirely deprived (of the sacrament), which does not seem either expedient or reasonable or, if they are not to be deprived of it, there is no reason for delaying it. Hence, I would say that bishops must confirm such mental defectives, unless some grave and extraordinary cause prevents it.”

It might be asked if a pastor could confirm such a child within the limits of his parish, by virtue of the concession granted to pastors in 1946 (the use of which began in 1947). The answer is that he may not do so, unless the child is in danger of death. On the other hand, a bishop, especially in a large diocese, would not be obliged to go to the homes of retarded children in order to administer the sacrament of Confirmation, because this would require too much time. But if such a child is brought to church at the time of a general Confirmation (and perhaps kept in the sacristy), it could surely be given the wonderful sacrament of the Holy Spirit—even though it has so low a mentality that it could never be given Holy Communion, and is at present below the usual age for Confirmation. Such children often die unexpectedly, and it is a great source of consolation for the parents of such a child to realize that he will enjoy greater bliss and glory for all eternity because he departed this life enriched with the character and the grace of Confirmation.

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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