



# 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 September 24th, the feast of Our Lady of Ransom, marks the 25th Anniversary of my episcopal consecration by the late Bishop Moises Carmona in 1991. In this issue of the seminary newsletter, I would like to reflect on the circumstances which preceded this consecration.

In late January of 1991, Bishop Carmona had visited Mount St. Michael in Spokane, Washington, and before his return to Mexico, left behind for our priests the following letter which came as a complete surprise to all of us.

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*Al Superior:*

*Desearé consagrar a cualquiera que la comunidad elija; pero antes de elegir invocaré fervorosamente al Espíritu Santo y haré que la oración vaya acompañada de algunos sacrificios, a fin de que uno se fije en simplicitas personales, sino en las virtudes y cualidades que que el electo debe tener para semejante cargo. En la Virgen María encontrará la Abogada poderosa que les ayudará en la elección, de la que saldrá el candidato que la Iglesia necesite para estos tiempos turbulentos.*

*Entre tanta falta de prudencia y discreción. Cuando ya tengan el candidato me mandarán su Curriculum vitae y fijaremos la fecha más conveniente.*

*Espero que este paso que va a darse sea para gloria de Dios, bien de las almas y el triunfo pronto de la Santa Iglesia, ahora traicionada por los mismos que deberían defenderla.*

*Que Dios les ilumine y los bendiga.*

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*A copy of Bishop Carmona's  
hand written letter*



*Bishop-elect and Bishop Carmona in the  
spring of 1991 in Hermosillo, Mexico*

February 1, 1991

To the Superior:

I desire to consecrate whomever the community chooses; but before choosing fervently invoke the Holy Ghost and make the prayer accompanied by some sacrifices, to the end of which not to regard personal likes, but the virtues and qualities that the elected should have for such a task. In the Virgin Mary will you find the powerful advocate who will help you in the election, from which will come the candidate that the Church needs for these turbulent times.

Above all, I ask you for your prudence and discretion. When you have the candidate, send me his *curriculum vitae* and we will determine the most convenient date.

I hope that this step which will be taken will be for the glory of God, the good of souls and the triumph of the Holy Church, now betrayed by the very ones who should defend her.

May God enlighten you and bless you.

(Most Rev.) Moises Carmona

*English Translation*

On March 21, 1991, when Bishop Carmona inquired whether or not a candidate had been chosen, he was told that the CMRI priests were still praying over the matter and had not yet determined to accept the offer, much less elect a candidate. Consequently, during Easter Week in April, the priests of CMRI met in a special session to discuss the matter at length. After prayer and lengthy discussion, the decision was made to accept the offer and a candidate was chosen. The following is an excerpt of the letter which was sent to Bishop Carmona:

“On Wednesday, the 3rd of April, eleven priests of the Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen, having prayed before the Blessed Sacrament, began the discussion concerning the possibility of electing one of the twelve priests to be consecrated bishop. During the discussion, the priests reflected upon the necessary qualities which a traditional Catholic bishop ought to have, and they considered the various priests who were possible candidates. After meeting for six hours, a decisive vote was taken to elect one of the priests as a candidate for consecration, and the Reverend Father Tarcisius was elected with a two-thirds majority (of the votes) of all present.”

At the time of the election, there were twelve priest-



*The Book of Gospels is placed on the bishop-elect's shoulders to signify the obligation of bishops to fulfill the command of Christ to teach all nations*



*The newly consecrated bishop receives the mitre with its two peaks, representing the Old and New Testaments*

members of the Congregation. All were present at the election, with the exception of one priest in New Zealand, Fr. Denis Chicoine, who, although unable to attend, was consulted by phone.

As requested by Bishop Carmona, a *curriculum vitae* of the bishop-elect was sent to him, and the following are excerpts from which was published in the announcement for the consecration:

#### *Curriculum Vitae*

“Born on October 31st, 1958, Mark Anthony Pivarunas was baptized on December 7 of the same year in Seven Holy Founders Church, Chicago, Illinois. He received his first Holy Communion on the 7th of May, 1966, and was confirmed on June 6, 1967.

“Mark Pivarunas entered the religious life in September of 1974. After a year's postulancy, he entered the novitiate on September 8, 1975, taking the religious name of Brother Mary Tarcisius. Profession of vows was made for one year on September 12, 1976, at the completion of which Brother Tarcisius renewed his religious vows for a period of three years. Finally, on September 12, 1980, he made his final profession of religious vows in the Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen.

“After receiving the commendation of his superiors





for his progress in both virtue and learning, he was ordained to the holy priesthood on June 27, 1985, by the Most Rev. George J. Musey.

“Father Tarcisius has served as the rector of the Congregation’s seminary for four years. In August of 1989, he was elected Superior General of the Religious Congregation, a post he has held with great distinction. His various accomplishments include the instruction of young men in the schools operated by the religious for a period of ten years, and five years spent as a seminary instructor, primarily in philosophy and dogmatic theology. During the past four years, Father Pivarunas has been the pastor of Mary Immaculate Church in Omaha, Nebraska. He has just recently completed the building of a beautiful and large church for his growing congregation. His zeal for souls leads him to travel extensively throughout Nebraska and into neighboring states, to provide the Mass and sacraments for the members of his flock... In accordance with Church practice, the bishop-elect will discontinue the use of his religious name and will be known by his baptismal and family name as Bishop Mark Pivarunas.”

My coat of arms shown above contains my

episcopal motto, *Animam Pro Ovibus Ponere*, *To lay down my life for the Sheep*; this is to remind me to imitate Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd, Who laid down His life for us. It was also to remind me that as a bishop I must be a good shepherd and always seek the glory of God and the salvation of souls. The upper part of the shield has the Lamb of God the symbol of Christ Who suffered so patiently for our redemption. The lower left is the crusader cross to signify the necessity of courage to spread the true Faith to all nations. On the lower right is the symbol of True Devotion to Jesus through Mary, which must be my way of life.

Over the last 25 years, there have been many special graces as well as many heavy crosses. By the grace of God and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, there are over 100 priests and Religious under my spiritual care, and our Mass centers and Catholic schools have greatly increased. Truly this spiritual growth can be directly traced to Our Lord and Our Lady. The words of Christ are always so true, “I am the vine, you are the branches. Without Me you can do nothing”; as well as the words of St. Paul, “I can do all things in Him who strengthens me.” St. Bernard’s words in his *Memorare* to Mary have always been a source of consolation: “Never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection was left unaided.” In your kindness please remember me in your daily prayers!

With my prayers and blessing,

Most Rev. Mark A. Pivarunas, CMRI



*Bishop Carmona with  
the newly consecrated bishop*

# Father Connell's *Outlines of Moral Theology*

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

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## REQUIREMENTS TO BE A SPONSOR FOR BAPTISM

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**Question:** What are the requirements to be a sponsor for Baptism?

**Answer:** It is the law of the Church that at a solemn Baptism there be at least one sponsor or godparent; there may be two of different sexes. It is the duty of a sponsor to regard the baptized person as a spiritual son or daughter, and to provide this person with proper religious and moral training if the parents are unable or unwilling to do so.

The Church has laid down certain laws determining who may validly accept the office of baptismal sponsor and who may do so lawfully. Excluded from valid sponsorship are the unbaptized, those belonging to a non-Catholic religious denomination, the parents or husband or wife of the person being baptized, and those on whom a condemnatory or declaratory sentence of excommunication has been inflicted. Excluded from lawful (though valid) sponsorship are persons under thirteen years of age, those who do not know even the rudiment of faith, priests and religious (unless they have received permission from their respective superior), and those who have been excommunicated for a notorious offense, without a declaratory or condemnatory sentence. However, for a good reason the minister of Baptism can allow a child under thirteen to be a godparent.

The godparent must physically touch the recipient during the actual conferring of the sacrament, or (in the case of baptism by immersion) immediately afterward raise him from the font or receive him from the hands of the minister. A person can act as godparent through a proxy, or representative, who goes through the ceremony in the name of the real godparent. But it is necessary that the real godparent agree to this. Thus, the parents of the child could not delegate someone to act as a proxy for a relative who knows nothing about the matter.

When baptism is conferred privately (without the solemn ceremonies) a godparent should be had if it is easy to procure one, but the obligation to procure a sponsor in this case is not grave.

A godparent contracts a spiritual relationship with the baptized person, which constitutes an impediment to their marriage. A similar relationship is formed between the minister and the recipient of the sacrament. This, if a boy baptized a girl in danger of death, he would be forbidden afterward to marry her.

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