

December, 2017

# Adsum

*Adsum* is published by the seminarians of **Mater Dei Seminary** for the enjoyment of our families, friends, and benefactors.



*The Imposition of Hands for the ordination of Rev. Fr. Augustine Walz, CMRI*

## LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

---

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

It is with great joy and gratitude that we send you this issue of the seminary newsletter with the photos of our recent ordinations on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12. Rev. Fr. Augustine Walz, CMRI (Wisconsin) was ordained to the holy priesthood; Rev. Frater Philip Davis, CMRI (Colorado) received the Diaconate; Rev. Mr. Tien Le (California), Rev. Mr. Jeremy Saunders (Canada), and Rev. Mr. Stephen Sandquist (Nebraska) received the Subdiaconate; and Michael Sellner (Minnesota) and Joseph Appelhanz (Colorado) received the first two minor orders of Porter and Lector.

Among our priests who assisted at the Pontifical High Mass and ordinations were Fr. Kryssov (Russia), Fr. Heyne (Germany), Fr. Gilchrist (Australia) and seventeen other priests from around the United States.

The following day, Fr. Augustine offered his first Solemn High Mass on the feast of St. Lucy in the presence of his large and extended family.

These ceremonies were celebrated with a magnificent choir to the great edification of our Catholic faithful. Ordinations are always a wonderful opportunity to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The two themes for the sermon at the ordination Mass were the greatness of the vocation to the priesthood to continue Christ's mission on earth of the salvation of souls and the maternal love of the Blessed Virgin Mary for us. The words spoken by Our Lady when she appeared in 1531 to Juan Diego are most inspiring: "Hear and let it penetrate into your heart, my dear little son: Let nothing discourage you, nothing depress you. Let nothing alter your heart or countenance. Also do not fear any illness and vexation, anxiety or pain. Am I not here who am your mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not your fountain of life? Are you not in the folds of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Is there anything else that you need?"

May all of you have a Blessed Christmas and a most grace-filled New Year!

With my prayers and blessing,

Most Rev. Mark A. Pivarunas, CMRI



*Minor Order of Lector*



*Subdeacons presented with the chalice and paten*





*Imposition of Hand for the Diaconate*



*Newly ordained priest presented with the chalice and paten containing the host and wine*



*Twenty priests assisted at the Pontifical High Mass and Ordinations to the Major and Minor Orders*

# *Outlines of Moral Theology*

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

---

## SANCTIFICATION OF FEASTS

---

In the Old Law, by God's decree, there were certain feast days for the special exercise of religion, such as the Sabbath, the Pasch, etc. In the New Law every Sunday is a feast. Some have held that the selection of Sunday is by divine law, at least in the sense that God commands one day in seven to be sanctified; but the better opinion is that this law is entirely ecclesiastical. The divine law merely commands that some time be given to God's worship, but leaves further determination to the Church. At any rate, the holydays of obligation are of merely ecclesiastical origin. By general law, there are ten holydays: Christmas, the Circumcision, the Ascension, the Immaculate Conception, the Assumption, All Saints, Corpus Christi, the Epiphany, St. Joseph, St. Peter and Paul. In the United States we are dispensed from the observance of the last four.

There are two obligations imposed by the Church for the proper sanctification of Sundays and holy days—abstinence from servile work and attendance at Mass. It is not easy to define exactly what is servile work, though, generally speaking, it is that which is done with the hands, and with a certain amount of hard labor, such as farm work, carpentry, tailoring, and sewing, etc. It is to be noted that even when one wishes to perform such labor as a means of recreation, it does not justify the performance. On the other hand, liberal works (e.g., writing, embroidery work, painting a picture, typing, photography) and mixed works (driving a car, athletic sports, hunting, fishing with a rod and line) are allowed. If a person devoted about two and one half hours or more to servile work (three hours if it is light, such as tending a garden without a sufficient reason), he would be guilty of mortal sin. Even if one is paid for liberal and mixed works, he is allowed to perform them.

The law of the church also forbids on Sundays and holydays of obligation forensic works (conducting court), public markets, and bazaars, buying and selling in a public fashion.

Causes which excuse one from this obligation are custom (e.g., ice-cream and soda stands in the United States), a reason of piety (e.g., ringing church bells, laying out and putting away vestments), public necessity (e.g., shoveling snow), one's own or a neighbor's necessity (e.g., cooking, taking in hay to protect it from a storm, work that will enable a poor man to get considerable extra pay on Sunday). But work that can be put off should not be done on Sunday or a holyday (e.g., washing windows, fixing the car, etc.). Generally speaking there is a tendency nowadays to forget this law of the Church among Catholics, and a return to better observance is desirable.

---

*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:

**MATER DEI SEMINARY**  
7745 Military Avenue  
Omaha NE 68134-3356  
[www.materdeiseminary.org](http://www.materdeiseminary.org)