



# Adsum

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

## ***LETTER FROM THE RECTOR***

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Dear Friends and Benefactors,

On May 3, the Feast of the Finding of the Holy Cross, 12 of our seminarians advanced to Tonsure, Minor Orders, Diaconate, and Priesthood. Frater Aloysius Hartman CMRI (Arizona) and Joseph Pham (Vietnam) received First Clerical Tonsure; Denis McGuire (Connecticut) and Carlos Zepeda (Mexico) were ordained to the first two minor orders of porter and lector; Michael Sellner (Minnesota), Joseph Appelhanz (Colorado), Josef Weissensteiner (Austria), and Fray Alberto O.M.Carm. (Mexico) were ordained to the last two minor orders of exorcist and acolyte; Rev. Stephen Sandquist (Nebraska), Rev. Tien Le (California) and Rev. Jeremy Saunders (Canada) were ordained to the diaconate; and finally, Fr. Philip

Marie Davis CMRI (Colorado) was ordained to the Holy Priesthood.

The Solemn Pontifical Mass and Ordinations took approximately three and a half hours and was accompanied by a magnificent choir. Catholic faithful from all around the country had the wonderful opportunity to witness these beautiful ceremonies.

As we congratulate our young clerics and their families, we certainly give thanks to Almighty God for their holy vocations and we sincerely beg the intercession of the patroness of our seminary—Mary, the Mother of God—for the perseverance, spiritual growth and final perseverance of our seminarians. Our work in the formation of future priests would not be possible without your prayers and support for which we are most grateful.

With our prayers and blessing,

Most Rev. Mark A. Pivarunas, CMRI





*Fifteen religious and secular priests joined in the Solemn Pontifical Mass and Ordinations*

*Fr. Philip Marie Davis CMRI offers his First Solemn High Mass*



*Above: Recitation of the Gloria with Fr. Gronenthal as assistant priest, Fr. Borja as deacon, and Fr. Augustine Walz CMRI as subdeacon*

*Below: Chanting of the Gospel*



*Above: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him who takes away the sins of the world."*

*Below: The elevation of the chalice—  
"My Lord and my God."*



# *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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## BUYING AND SELLING

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This contract, so common in present-day life, is made when a commodity is transferred for money. It differs, therefore, from barter (commodity for commodity) and exchange (money for money).

There are three species of price—legal, common, and conventional. The legal price is that which is set by civil law. *Per se*, this must be observed: however, if a merchant would have to sustain a great loss unless he demanded more for his goods, he would be justified in demanding more. Similarly, if a person could not obtain the ordinary goods of life unless he paid more than the “ceiling” price, he could do this in conscience. But to conduct a “black market” business just because of the profits it brings is surely a violation of legal justice.

The common price is that which is set by the common estimate of men. This admits usually of a variation. For example, the common price of eggs in a certain locality might vary from 60 to 75 cents a dozen. The general principle is that it is lawful to buy and sell within these limits, when there is no legal price. Hence, if a buyer charged more than the highest common price, he must restore. There can be at times reasons for going above or below—for example, the fact that cash is paid immediately, or the fact that the buyer is buying really out of charity for the seller, will justify a cutting down of the price below the lowest common price; the fact that the seller is allowing credit until the end of the month will justify a raising of the prices above the maximum. But the fact that the buyer is in great need of a commodity at present does not justify a great increase in price. For example, the fact that the country storekeeper knows that the village painter is hired to begin painting a house tomorrow and can get a paint brush only from his store does not justify him raising the price of the brush from \$2 to \$20.

The seller is bound to reveal the substantial hidden defects of his product, if they are not perceived by the buyer, and also to tell any accidental defects he is asked about. Thus, to sell an auto with a defective engine (at least when the car is supposed to be in good condition) is a violation of justice, if the buyer is unaware of it. In certain sales, such as auction sales and horse-trading, it is understood that the seller will reveal nothing, and the buyer must judge for himself, according to the adage *Caveat emptor* (“Let the buyer beware”). But even then positive deception on the part of the seller is wrong.

The buyer is bound to give a fair price, even though the seller is ignorant of the true value of the object. For example, if a man familiar with books offered \$5 to an ignorant countryman for a first edition of Shakespeare which the latter found in his garret, he would be guilty of injustice, and the contract would be null and void because of a substantial error. But in buying at auction sales or secondhand bookshops or pawn shops or antique shops, the buyer need not reveal the true value of the object which he can get at a very low price.

Salesmen may praise their wares and it is expected that in advertising, etc., there is some exaggeration. But downright falsehoods, such as we find in many ads today, are utterly unjust. For example, to claim for a patent medicine (which is only water and a few herbs) that it will cure diseases, so that simple people buy it in great numbers, is undoubtedly a grave sin of injustice. The radio ads of the present day are sometimes as deceptive as such crude methods.

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