



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,

Our annual schedule at the seminary has over the last 29 years become quite established! Every year the seminary classes begin on the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, September 8, just a few weeks after Mater Dei Academy classes (K-12 grades) start, which is immediately after the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, August 15. This is done in order to establish the routine with our grade and high school students, especially our boarder boys and girls.

We have ordinations twice a year: on December 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and again in early May, at the end of our scholastic classes for the seminary, most often on the feast of Ss. Philip and James.

Every year our priests and religious make their annual retreat on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday during the week of the feast of Corpus Christi. What a wonderful way to end the retreat with a Solemn High Mass and the procession of the Blessed Sacrament! How inspiring to see all the clergy participate in the public adoration of Our Lord in the Sacrament of His love.

Although most of our seminarians have returned home for the summer, our three deacons have continued their classes after a three week break. They will continue their studies in Moral Theology, Canon Law, and the Sacred Liturgy in preparation for priestly ordinations this December. They are joined by Joseph Pham, who was a Novus Ordo “priest” and who is now reviewing the traditional Catholic course of seminary studies.



Corpus Christi Procession

There is a special intention which we commend to your prayers; Teresa Sandquist, the mother of one of our deacons, Rev. Stephen Sandquist, has a very aggressive brain cancer. We hope and pray that she will have the joy to see her son ordained to the holy priesthood. Surely this is one of the greatest consolations for any parent—their son to become an alter Christus, another Christ. No matter how many ordination ceremonies we witness, it is always such a moving moment for the newly ordained priests to give their parents their first blessing.

What a spiritual boost it was to so many Catholic faithful around the country to visit Mater Dei Seminary this past May and to witness the ordinations. Fr. Philip Davis, CMRI's First Solemn High Mass was accompanied by a magnificent choir! Enclosed in this newsletter is an order form for those who wish to acquire a CD of this Mass. No one will be disappointed!

With the summer months upon us, let us remember the words of Our Lady of Fatima, “More souls go to hell for sins of the flesh than for any other reason,” and “certain styles and fashions will be introduced that gravely offend my Divine Son.” Our Lady spoke these words in 1917; how much more relevant they are today. Parents especially need to protect their children from the occasions of sin which are more prevalent today than ever before. Our Catholic children need to be protected from losing their innocence, especially from the unsupervised use of the Internet. To remain in the state of sanctifying grace, prayer and the frequent reception of the Sacraments is absolutely essential, especially as is a loving devotion to Mary the Mother of God and the Immaculate Conception.

May all of you have a spiritually safe summer! As always, thank you for your prayers and support!
With my prayers and blessing,
Most Rev. Mark A. Pivarunas, CMRI



The Sisters of the Mother of God (CMD) staff our schools in Omaha, NE, Seneca, WI, St. Cloud, MN, Burlington, CO, Colorado Springs, CO, and Phoenix, AZ

St. Anthony of Padua

There are many wonderful examples of priestly sanctity in the history of the Church from which our clergy and seminarians can draw abundant inspiration. One of these great inspirations is the popular St. Anthony of Padua, whose feast we celebrate on June 13.

Most of us know St. Anthony of Padua as the patron saint who helps us find lost items, but we should not forget that he was given the titles of Doctor of the Church and Hammer of Heretics because he persistently and successfully combated the heresies of his time.

What was the cause of this Saint's success in the conversion of heretics? Was it his great learning? To some degree, yes. St. Anthony was a brilliant theologian and was well versed in dogmatic theology and Sacred Scripture. But the primary cause of his success was his deep spiritual life. By his prayers and sacrifices, he drew down the grace of God which is the most necessary ingredient in the recipe of any conversion to the Faith. On one occasion, this great Saint began to preach in the town square, in a village near a seaport, but his words fell on deaf ears. Undaunted in his desire to reach these people, he announced that, as they would not listen to him, he would preach to the fish on the sea coast. This announcement was met with a roar of laughter. When St. Anthony reached the coast, he calmed the sea, and called up a great multitude of fish to the top of the water (all the fish were in straight rows, smaller fish in front and successively larger fish toward the deeper water). At this spectacular event, the people begged to hear the Word of God from His servant and were converted to the true Faith.



The relic chapel of the Basilica of St. Anthony of Padua



On another occasion, St. Anthony was preaching on the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist when a heretic began to challenge this doctrine. The heretic wanted some external proof for the Doctrine of the Real Presence. The man declared that he would not feed his donkey for three days, and that on the third day his donkey would be led into the town square. On one side of the square would be placed an abundance of hay and oats and at the other side would stand St. Anthony holding the monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament. If his animal would adore Christ in the Eucharist, he would believe.

For the next three days, St. Anthony prayed for Divine intervention. On the third day, the man very confidently brought his hungry donkey to the public square only to be stupefied when his donkey went straight to St. Anthony with Our Eucharistic King in the monstrance. The donkey bent its front legs and bowed its head and remained there for some time. The donkey was then joined by its master, for the heretic fell on his knees and crawled next to his beast in adoration.

Many of us desire the conversion to the true Faith of members of our families and relatives. Let us never forget to support our explanations of the Faith with our prayers and sacrifices to draw down the necessary graces that our potential converts need.

St. Anthony of Padua, Doctor of the Church and Hammer of Heretics, pray for us!

Outlines of Moral Theology

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

ALEATORY CONTRACTS

An aleatory contract is one in which an uncertain good is sought or an uncertain evil is avoided for a determined price. The latter type, in which an uncertain evil is avoided, is found in the contract of insurance.

It is evident that certain practices in the matter of insurance render the contract null and void and oblige to restitution. For example, if a person burns down a building to get the insurance, he must restore what he has gained; or if one insures a man who is actually dead, the contract is invalid. The difficult problems concern the matter of deception regarding age, previous condition of health, etc., in the taking out of a life insurance policy. It would seem that a slight falsification does not invalidate the contract—for example, if a man stated that he was 40 years old when in reality he was 42. Furthermore, if the concealed fact did not actually contribute to a person's death, the insurance could be accepted. For example, if a man concealed the fact that he had had several heart attacks and got an insurance policy, his relatives could accept the money if his death was caused by an auto accident. But, even in this case, the relatives would have to pay the difference between what he paid in policies and what he would have had to pay if the truth had been told.

If the insurance company's doctor examines a person and finds no trace of disease, the person need have no scruples in taking the policy, even though he himself believes that he has some hidden malady. In that case, the company is supposed to take the word of the doctor, and the other need make no statement.

Gambling is also an aleatory contract, in which the uncertainty is on both sides. Gambling is not in itself sinful, though it may lead to many sins, such as injustice, hatred, excessive love of gain, drunkenness, etc. Civil laws forbidding organized gambling are binding in conscience.

That a game of chance be lawful, it is required: (1) That each stake something that belongs to himself. (2) That each play willingly. (3) That a reasonable proportion be observed between what is bet and what may be gained and that each have a fair chance to win. (4) That the rules of honesty be observed in the play. Thus, it would render the game null and void if one had cards concealed, if false dice were used, or if a slot machine were "doctored." On the other hand, it is not forbidden to look at an opponent's hand if he carelessly exposes it or to observe any marks that may be by chance on the back of the cards.

If a person gambles with money belonging to another, per se he may keep the gains, because they constitute industrial fruits. But if he has nothing to restore in case he loses, and no hope of getting any means of restoring, the game is null and void from the beginning (and the winnings must be restored to the other player), because he actually bet nothing that his opponent could lawfully win.

A person cannot gamble justly if he is sure of the results. For example, if a man privately knows that one of the horses in the race is sick and cannot finish, he may not bet against this horse with a person who knows nothing of the animal's ailment.

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