



Adsum

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LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12th, has been the joyful occasion of the ordination of three new priests and of one deacon at Mater Dei Seminary. We were blessed to have 22 of our religious and secular priests assisting at the Pontifical High Mass. Our congratulations to Fr. Michael Sellner (Minnesota), Fr. Joseph Appelhanz (Colorado), Fr. Joseph Pham (Vietnam), and Rev. Carlos Zepeda (Mexico)!

The apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego in 1531 reminds us that God chooses the weak

and the foolish of this world to confound the proud. The same can be said for Our Lady's apparitions at Lourdes to St. Bernadette (a simple peasant girl) and at Fatima to Jacinta, Francisco and Lucia (shepherd children).

As we celebrate the Birth of Our Divine Saviour, we once again recall God's special love for humble and simple souls. At His Birth, the angel announced this singular event to the shepherds—men of good will—who hastened to the stable to adore the Divine Messiah. May you all have a most blessed Christmas and grace-filled New Year!

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



Beginning of the Mass



*Rev. Carlos Zepeda (Mexico)
receives the Diaconate*



Litany of the Saints



Imposition of Hands



Concelebration of the Mass

“Receive the Holy Ghost, whose sins you forgive they are forgiven.”

Outlines of Moral Theology

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

VERACITY

Veracity is that virtue (potential part of justice) which inclines one to manifest the truth in word and in deed. It can be violated by excess, when one manifests a secret without sufficient reason, or by defect, when one tells a lie.

A secret may be natural, promised, or committed. A natural secret is one which is such by the very nature of things (e.g., the hidden faults of my neighbor). A promised secret is one which must be kept because a person promised to do so after he became aware of the secret. A committed secret is one which arises from a contract, either express or tacit, made before the manifestation of the secret. The most usual form of the committed secret is the professional secret (the doctor, the lawyer, the priest, etc., in reference to those matters coming within their professional scope), since everyone who practices a profession implicitly agrees to observe this manner of secrecy with respect to his clients.

It is *per se* a sin to divulge another's secret against his will, since a man has as much right to his own secrets as he has to his property. The natural and the committed secret bind out to justice, the promised secret out of fidelity (though often this is also a natural secret and in that event binds also in justice). The sin committed by the violation of a secret is either mortal or venial, in accordance with the gravity of the harm that is done. The harm done by the transgression includes the general lessening of confidence on the part of the public that can be one of the consequences.

If there is probability that a person regards some secret knowledge as very important, it would be a mortal sin to strive to get at it—e.g., by listening at the keyhole, by piecing together a torn letter. On the other hand, if a person has good reason to believe that his own great good is involved, he may read another's letter. Parents have the right to supervise the mail of their younger children, and even of the older ones, if they think some serious harm may thus be averted. Religious superiors have the rights given by the rule, but they should be mindful of the letters which Canon Law allows religious to send and to receive without any inspection.

A secret may be divulged if the consent of the interested party can be at least reasonably presumed, or if the matter has become public in some other way, or if the common good or the good of some individual requires it—provided that the good is sufficient to outweigh the evil that may come from the manifestation of the secret, particularly the professional secret. (It should be remembered that no reason, however important, will justify the manifestation of confessional knowledge.) An example of lawful manifestation of a professional secret is the case of the doctor who knows that a young man, infected with a social disease, is preparing to marry a girl who knows nothing of his condition. The doctor could warn the girl if the young man will not do it himself.

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