



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,

Although there have been crosses that have accompanied the state mandated health restrictions during the months of March and April, such as limited numbers allowed for Sunday Mass and the closure of the academy and boarding school for the rest of the year, there have also been blessings, such as extra class time with the seminarians and the completion of numerous work projects on the new seminary property. Here in Nebraska and Iowa, more businesses are now allowed to open and things seem to be returning to “normal.”

On Monday, May 11, the feast of Sts. Philip and James, Adam Craig (Michigan) received first clerical tonsure and Rev. Denis McGuire (Connecticut) received the Diaconate. During the sermon of the ordination Mass, I stressed the importance of fidelity to our vocations and the great need for “laborers” to the “harvest” of souls. The years spent in the seminary will rapidly pass and our seminarians need to lay a



solid spiritual foundation for their priesthood. What St. Augustine relates of the faithful in general, that they are spiritually formed in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary until she brings them forth to eternal life, is especially true for seminarians. Mary the Mother of God forms our seminarians spiritually until they are brought forth as other Christs by ordination to the priesthood. It is for this reason that our seminary is named Mater Dei.

During the summer months, I ordinarily travel to our multiple Mass centers around the country to administer the sacrament of Confirmation. With the different health restrictions in various states, this will be more challenging because of the limitations of faithful allowed per Mass. For example, in Minnesota, I will be offering 3 Masses, each followed by the administration of Confirmation, and in Colorado, I will be confirming in Burlington for all 3 of our churches in eastern Colorado. As for the other states with severe restrictions, confirmations will have to be postponed to later dates.

The year 2020 has ushered in very unstable times for us socially, emotionally and economically. And this is not only true for our country but also world-wide. Let the words of St. Bernard on the Gospel of St. Luke be a consolation and comfort to us:

“In dangers, in troubles, in doubts, think of Mary, call Mary. Let her not depart from your lips, let her not depart from your hearts; and to obtain the help of her prayers, do not lose sight of the examples of her life—Following her you do not go astray; by praying to her you do not despair; thinking of her you do not err. If she upholds you, you do not fall; if she protects you, you have nothing to fear; if she accompanies you, you do not tire; if she is propitious to you, you will arrive at the goal and thus you will experience in yourself how rightly it was said, ‘And the Virgin’s name was Mary.’”

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



“That Thou wouldst vouchsafe to bless, sanctify and consecrate...”



“The Lord is the portion of my inheritance and of my cup: It is Thou that wilt restore my inheritance to me.”



“May the Lord clothe thee with the new man, who is created according to God in justice and true holiness.”



Renovation for the seminary classroom and the extension of the chapel.



The seminarians enjoy recreation on a sunny day.

Outlines of Moral Theology

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

OTHER POTENTIAL PARTS OF JUSTICE: PIETY

Piety is the virtue whereby we give honor and service to those to whom we owe our being—our parents and, more remotely, our country. In this second sense piety would correspond to our idea of patriotism.

Children are bound to give their parents love, honor, obedience, and assistance. For example, ordinarily a son or daughter would sin grievously by striking a parent, even though only lightly. (We say *ordinarily* because there could be an exception in the case of a drunken parent, or one who is out of his mind and is misbehaving.) The obedience due to parents, strictly speaking, ends with the attainment of majority (twenty-one years) or emancipation (e.g., by marriage), but even then, if a son or daughter lives at home, obedience must be given in matters relating to domestic order (e.g., they must be in the house at a reasonable time, they may not have rowdy friends visiting them). But such older children are not bound to the same detailed obedience as younger children—e.g., they could not be kept at home regularly every night, they would not have to render an account of all their correspondence and social doings.

Children, even minors, are not obliged to obey their parents as regards a state of life. Hence, a girl has the right to choose the religious life even against the will of her parents. Often, however, it is not prudent for her to execute her plan until she comes of age. Similarly, there is no obligation to follow the directions of their parents regarding marriage itself, or marriage with a particular person, though young folks should ordinarily consult their parents on these matters. The Church decrees that a pastor shall not assist at the marriage of minors, when the parents do not know about it or are reasonably unwilling, until he has first consulted the bishop.

Children, even after majority, are bound to assist their parents in grave or extreme necessity. Indeed, a child would not be allowed to enter religion if his parents were in grave necessity and could not otherwise be helped; and one already professed as a religious would be obliged to leave the convent or monastery to help

OTHER POTENTIAL PARTS OF JUSTICE: DUTIES OF PARENTS

Parents are bound to show their children special love. It is wrong if they favor certain of their children more than the others without reasonable cause. Second, they must provide them with proper bringing up (*educatio*), bodily, mentally and spiritually. The spiritual care begins with the obligation to have the child baptized as soon as possible after birth. It is difficult to interpret “as soon as possible” as more than three weeks, though some theologians stretch it to a month. When the child grows older the parents are bound to provide it with a truly religious (Catholic) education, and the Church forbids Catholic children to be sent to non-Catholic or non-religious schools or colleges unless the bishop judges this can be tolerated.

Parents must also provide their children with a means of making their way in life. Ordinarily this means that they must give them a start in some profession or trade. But parents should not force a particular type of work on a child. They should not try to force a boy to become a doctor when his heart is set on owning a

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MATER DEI SEMINARY
7745 Military Avenue
Omaha NE 68134-3356
www.materdeiseminary.org