



Adsum

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LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

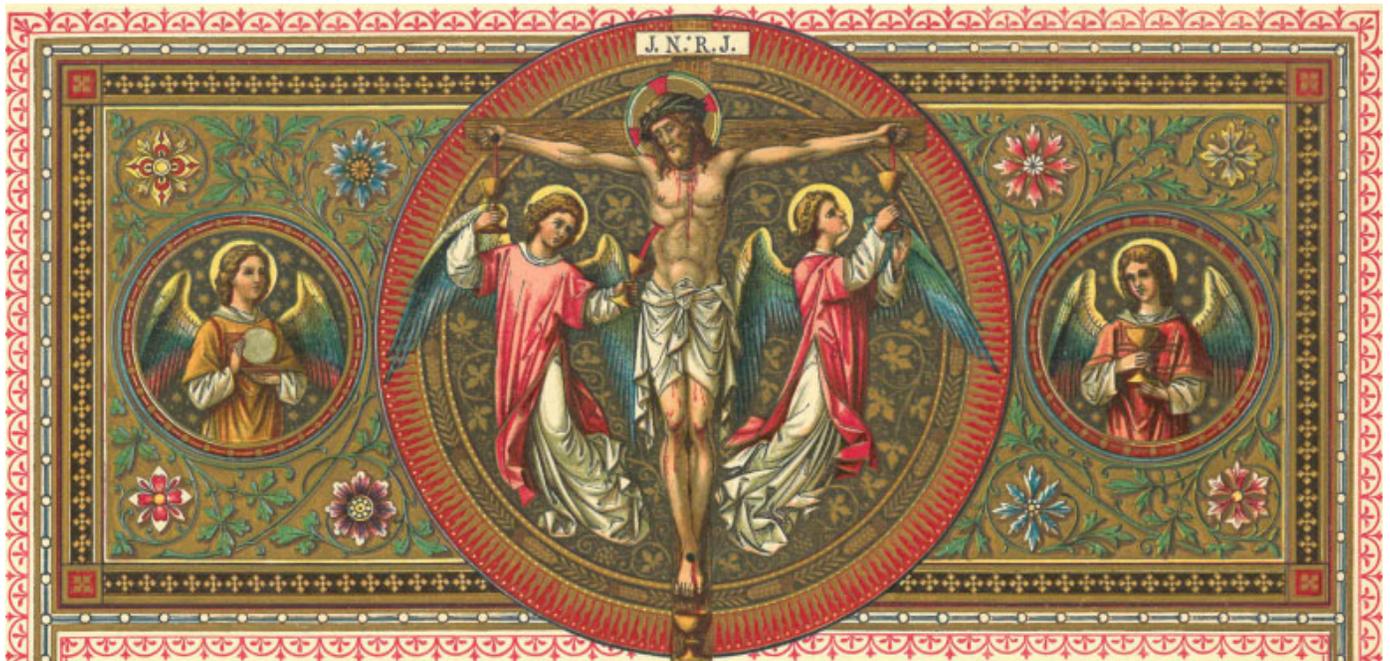
This September, as Mater Dei Seminary begins a new semester, we will separate our religious seminarians from our secular seminarians. The religious seminarians will be stationed in Colorado with Fr. Gregory Drahrman, CMRI, and the secular seminarians will remain here in Omaha with Fr. Borja and myself.

The reason for this is that the religious seminarians should have a more monastic atmosphere where they can better foster the spirit of the religious life—the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience. As a matter of fact, our seminary originally began exclusively for religious seminarians. Back in 1974, when I first entered the seminary (Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho),

there were over 30 religious brothers and seminarians. Those early years were times of religious fervor, and we were truly blessed to have Fr. Clement Kubesh, an old retired priest from Nebraska, as our chaplain and confessor.

Then in 1977, Mount St. Michael was purchased from the Jesuits in Spokane, Washington, and with this massive facility the number of brothers and seminarians nearly tripled. During the mid-1980's, at the request of Bishop Musey and Bishop McKenna, secular seminarians were admitted to study alongside of the religious. Although this was not the ideal situation, it was the best that we could do under the circumstances.

Although Mount St. Michael is a beautiful facility, it does require a tremendous amount of maintenance; that often fell to the seminarians. In order to relieve them of the upkeep of the Mount and to provide more



time to focus exclusively on their spiritual and scholastic formation for the priesthood, we moved the seminary to Omaha in 1989. Over the past 30 years religious and secular seminarians have studied together but I believe the time has come for the religious to once again have that unique religious atmosphere. For many years, Fr. Gregory Drahman, CMRI taught classes here at the seminary and will make a good rector for our religious seminarians for many years to come. As for the ordination ceremonies, all the seminarians, both religious and secular, will be ordained together here in Omaha.

With all the civil unrest and instability in society, we are reminded of the words of St. Paul in his epistle to St. Timothy: “For there will come a time when they will not endure sound doctrine; but having itching ears, will heap up to themselves teachers according to their own lusts and they will turn away their hearing from the truth and turn aside rather to fables.” (II Timothy 4:3) Radical elements in our society call to defund the



Brother Alphonsus Maria, CMRI takes First Vows



police, to replace the police altogether, to erase our history by the removal of statues of historical figures, and to burn and destroy private and public property all in the name of social justice. These are indeed strange times in which we live. And we should not for a moment think that these things happen randomly. What we are witnessing is an organized effort to destroy our country. This is the blueprint followed by communist dictators time and time again to overthrow countries: create class struggle, pitting race against race, promote protests that lead to rioting and looting, discredit anyone who opposes them with labels such as Nazis and racists, and discredit law enforcement. There is an interesting documentary which came out in 1966 called “Anarchy USA.” In the documentary,



Sr. Frances Marie, CMD takes her Final Vows before Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist

former communists revealed the strategy to bring down the United States. As Lenin once said, “The United States will fall like an over ripe fruit into our hands.” Our Lady of Fatima had foretold that if her requests are not fulfilled, Russia would spread her errors throughout the world.

The month of July is dedicated to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus and reminds us of the great price Our Lord paid for our redemption. How precious are the souls of men in the sight of God! During the July apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, she showed the children a vision of hell “where the souls of poor sinners go.” This is the greatest tragedy—the loss of souls. Our Blessed Mother appeared, at Fatima as a concerned Mother who knew so well how much her Divine Son suffered as He shed His Precious Blood on the Cross. As Our Lady requested, let us be zealous to pray and to sacrifice for the conversion of poor sinners.

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

Outlines of Moral Theology

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

SCANDAL

Scandal may be *active* or *passive*. Active scandal is an action (deed, word, or at times even an omission) which is either evil or has the appearance of an evil action, and is likely to furnish an occasion of sin to others. We say that even an action “which as the appearance of evil” may be active scandal, as in the case of a Catholic who has a dispensation to eat meat on Friday and does so in the presence of others who do not know of this dispensation and may be led to follow his example. Hence, scandal in the theological sense is not talk, although in common speech the word scandal is often used in these senses. The main feature of *scandal*, as the term is used in Catholic theology, is that it furnishes a bad example to someone, furnishing him with an occasion of sin.

Active scandal is *direct* when the scandalizer *intends* the sin of the other, as when a man leads others into drunkenness by his own example, either because he deliberately wishes them to commit sin as something pleasing to him in itself (diabolical scandal), or because he wishes it as a means to his advantage—for example, when he desires to rob them when they are drunk (simply direct scandal). Active scandal is *indirect* when the scandalizer *foresees* that his actions will lead others into sin, but does not intend this sin, as in the case of the man who drinks to excess and foresees that his son will follow his example; he prefers that this would not happen, but nevertheless continues to indulge his passion for drink.

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVE SCANDAL: Parents who neglect Mass and foresee that their children will do the same. Employers who refuse their employees a proper wage, and thereby stir them up to anger and hatred. Landlords who exclude families from their apartments merely because they have three or four children and thereby promote birth control. Girls who take part in “beauty contests” with scanty and immodest costumes.

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:

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