



Adsum

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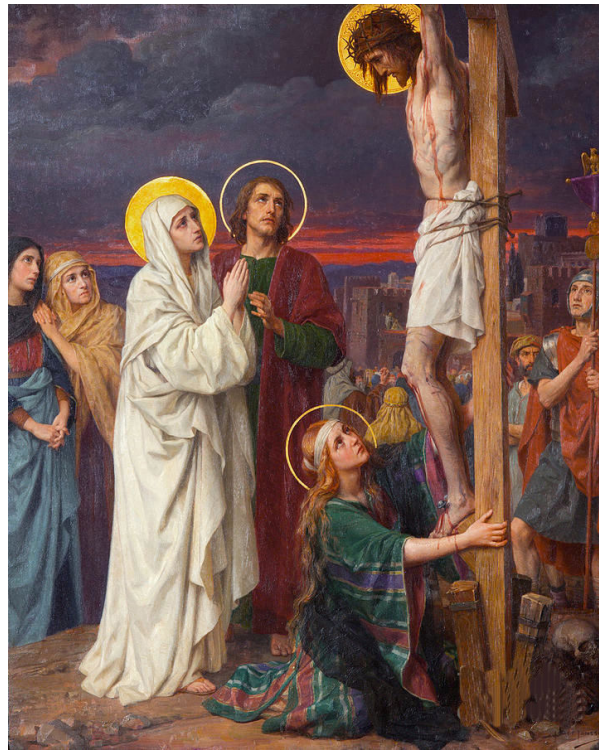
LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr. Anthony Cekada of St. Gertrude the Great Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was a distinguished writer for the traditional Catholic movement, and his frequent articles on various theological topics will be certainly missed. Fr. Cekada was not only gifted with a brilliant mind but also had a great sense of humor. One example that comes to my mind was a story that he related to me upon my return from a visit to Fr. Oswald Baker of Downham, England in the 1990's. Fr. Cekada asked me if Fr. Baker still used an electric light in a red globe for his sanctuary candle (Fr. Baker did this for safety reasons as he was not resident at the St. Pius V Chapel). Fr. Cekada then related that he pointed out to Fr. Baker that his electric sanctuary light was not 51% beeswax, to which Fr. Baker responded, "Yes, but it is 100% efficient!"

As we begin a new scholastic year, we start with 17 seminarians—10 secular and 7 religious, with more on the way as soon as the travel restrictions are lifted for seminarians from other countries. On the feast of the Seven Sorrows of Mary, Fr. Gregory Drahan, CMRI and the religious seminarians traveled from

Olathe, Colorado, to join us here in Omaha. After Holy Mass, Jacob Hasbrouck (Michigan) was received as a novice brother and took as his name Brother Mary Joachim, CMRI. Also Justin Miller (California) and William Sentman (Michigan) were received as religious postulants. After the religious ceremonies, Noah Ellis (Kentucky), Matthew de la Cruz (Massachusetts),



*"Now there stood by the Cross
of Jesus His Mother."*

Daemian Serna (Kansas), Kyle St. Aubin (Canada), and James Brodman (Ohio) received the cassock. On this occasion I took the opportunity to exhort the seminarians to use their time well during their priestly formation. They need to lay a solid spiritual foundation upon which to build their priestly future. Their time in the seminary will pass rapidly and their success as priests will greatly depend upon the virtues and good habits they form now in their younger years. The atmosphere at the seminary and the well regulated schedule are conducive to

their spiritual growth and it is up to them to utilize the opportunities of grace and education.

Besides the ceremonies for the seminarians, the Sisters of the Congregation of the Mother of God had Sisters to take First Vows and Renewal of Vows as well as the reception of postulants. The ceremonies always coincide with a feast of Our Lady and are held in the presence of the students of Mater Dei Academy. It is



*Brother Mary Joachim, CMRI
receives the religious habit*

important to plant the seeds of vocations in young people's hearts as they witness the generosity of young women leaving the world behind to follow Christ more perfectly.

As we witness the tragic civil unrest in our country today, it is no wonder that many of the Catholic faithful grow anxious and worried about our future. In our major cities protests, rioting, looting, destruction of property, and physical attacks on innocent citizens are perpetrated in the name of civil justice. The great tragedy is that liberal governors of states and liberal mayors of cities not only allow this anarchy but also encourage it by prohibition of non-lethal weapons on the part of the police to maintain law and order; by the foolish toleration of the rioters by their release after arrest without bail; and by the lack of proper prosecution of these criminals for their crimes. Many of these rioters are not local residents and are well funded for their travel expenses and lodging. There is

an organized effort behind all this to bring our country down. As disturbing as all this is, I am reminded of the verses from Sacred Scripture: "The kings of the earth rise up, and the princes take counsel together against the Lord and against his Anointed: 'Let us break their chains asunder, and let us cast away from us their bonds.' He who dwells in the heavens laughs, the Lord laughs them to scorn... Blessed are all they who flee to Him for refuge." Let us never forget that no matter how successful Satan appears to be in the world today and how organized his human instruments seem to be, God always has the final victory and the Mother of God ever crushes the head of Satan. Now more than ever, we need to turn to Almighty God for His protection and have recourse to our heavenly Mother Mary, the Mother of God.

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



*Reception of religious postulants and of the
cassock for secular seminarians*



Mater Dei Seminary 2020



Sr. Mary Michaela, CMD (Malaysia) takes Three Year Vows and Sr. Mary Bernadette, CMD (Iowa) takes First Vows



Anna Bohman (Ohio), Anna Davis (Iowa), and Natalie Lehen (Minnesota) enter the convent as postulants

Outlines of Moral Theology

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

SOBRIETY AND DRUNKENNESS

Drunkenness, a sin against sobriety, is the inordinate and voluntary use of intoxicating liquor for the sake of pleasure. It is complete if the use of reason is taken away; it is incomplete if it does not go to this extent, but nevertheless lessens the control one has on himself. Ordinarily complete drunkenness is a mortal sin, incomplete drunkenness is a venial sin. The malice of drunkenness consists in the fact that, without a sufficient reason, a person in a violent way deprives himself of the use of the noblest of his faculties.

It is difficult to distinguish in practice between complete and incomplete drunkenness. It is not requisite for complete drunkenness that one be rendered utterly stupid and helpless. The essential factor seems to be that one does things that are inordinate which otherwise he would not do—e.g., blasphemy, wild driving, uncontrolled temper, etc. In other words, “he is not himself.” A person is guilty of imperfect drunkenness when his speech becomes somewhat thick, when he gets excessively humorous, when he repeats the same jokes over and over again, etc. It should be noted that a person may be guilty of grave scandal even by venially culpable drunkenness.

The basic malice in drunkenness is not that one deprives himself of the use of reason, but that he does so in a violent manner and merely for the sake of pleasure. Consequently, it is not a sin when a person deprives himself of the use of reason by the use of a drug when he has to undergo an operation. Indeed, if no other anesthetic were available, one could render himself insensible by alcoholic liquor to mitigate great physical pain or to undergo an operation.

The use of narcotics, such as opium, etc., is to be judged by the same norms as the use of alcoholic liquor. Such drugs should not be used when a person is dying, except in as far as is necessary to mitigate great pain, because the last hours should be spent in acquiring merit. However, if a person is in great agony, a drug could be given him to relieve him, even though he would die unconscious—provided he has been prepared spiritually for death.

A person who deliberately becomes intoxicated, foreseeing that in that condition he will commit certain sins—e.g., blasphemy, impurity—is guilty in cause of those sins. For this prevision certainty is not required. It suffices that one judge with good probability that this will occur. On the other hand, a merely remote probability that one will commit some serious sin will not add another sin to the sin of drunkenness.

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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