



# 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 our seminary classes have been suspended for the summer, our activities for the seminary have not slowed down. At the end of June, our secular priests and non-CMRI religious priest gathered for our annual meeting in order to review important priestly matters in theology and canon law. This is especially important for our newly ordained priests to aid them in their pastoral work for souls. Each morning our Catholic faithful were spiritually spoiled with multiple Masses being offered in the early hours of the morning. It is also our custom to have a potluck dinner for our priests and parishioners in order for the laity to meet priests from different parts of the country.

On pages 2 and 3 of this issue of the seminary newsletter, there are included a number of pictures of the seminary located in the quiet, rolling countryside

of Iowa, some 50 minutes from Omaha. We have been indeed blessed with this 10-acre retreat-like property with a large pond and a huge out-building for storage. Its location is especially providential, as it is merely 4 miles from the CMD Sisters' convent, and our herd of 14 cows can be divided for grazing between the seminary and convent. The milking cows are at the convent, and the cows to be butchered are kept at the seminary. The livestock provide generously for the seminary, convent, and boarding school with milk, cheese, butter, and meat.

Our priests and seminarians will be focused on the upcoming seminary and school year. As of this date, we will receive 6 new seminarians—3 from the United States, 1 from Poland, and 2 from Brazil.

As always, we appreciate your prayers and support for the seminary and reassure you of our daily prayers for you!

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





*Residence for the secular seminarians*



*Aerial view of the seminary*



*Our seminary chapel and classroom*



*Summer chores for the seminarians include moving and stacking alfalfa*



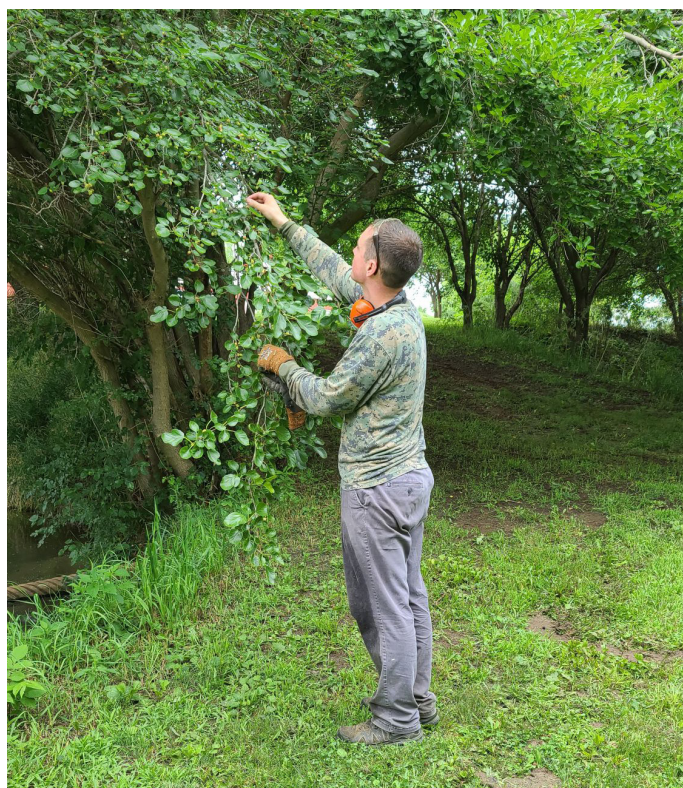
*Property in western Iowa*



*Treating and maintaining the seminary pond*



*Our cows are a cross between black Angus and Jersey; Jerseys provide high quality, creamy milk, and Angus are noted for their meat*



*Mulberry trees abound on the seminary property, providing a delicious snack*

# *Outlines of Moral Theology*

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

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## SANCTIFICATION OF FEASTS

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In the Old Law, by God's decree, there were certain feast days for the special exercise of religion, such as the Sabbath, the Pasch, etc. In the New Law every Sunday is a feast. Some have held that the selection of Sunday is by divine law, at least in the sense that God commands one day in seven to be sanctified; but the better opinion is that this law is entirely ecclesiastical. The divine law merely commands that *some* time be given to God's worship, but leaves further determination to the Church. At any rate, the holydays of obligation are of merely ecclesiastical origin. By general law, there are ten holydays: Christmas, the Circumcision, the Ascension, the Assumption, All Saints, Corpus Christi, the Epiphany, St. Joseph, Ss. Peter and Paul. In the United States we are dispensed from the observance of the last four.

There are two obligations imposed by the Church for the proper sanctification of Sundays and holydays—abstention from servile work, though, generally speaking, it is that which is done with the hands, and with a certain amount of hard labor, such as farm work, carpentry, tailoring, and sewing, etc. It is to be noted that even when one wishes to perform such labor as a means of recreation, it does not justify the performance. On the other hand, *liberal* works (e.g., writing, embroidery work, painting a picture, typing, photography) and mixed works (driving a car, athletic sports, hunting, fishing with a rod and line) are allowed. If a person devoted about two and one half hours or more to servile work (three hours if it is light, such as tending a garden) without a sufficient reason, he would be guilty of mortal sin. Even if one is paid for liberal and mixed works, he is allowed to perform them.

The law of the Church also forbids on Sundays and holydays of obligation forensic works (conducting court), public markets, and bazaars, buying and selling in a public fashion.

Causes which excuse one from this obligation are custom (e.g., ice-cream and soda stands in the United States), a reason of piety, public necessity (e.g., shoveling snow), one's own or a neighbor's necessity (e.g., cooking, taking in hay to protect it from a storm, work that will enable a poor man to get considerable extra pay on Sunday). But work that can be put off should not be done on Sunday or a holyday (e.g., washing windows, fixing the car, etc.). Generally speaking there is a tendency nowadays to forget this law of the Church among Catholics, and a return to better observance is desirable.

A pastor can dispense individuals or individual families of his parish (and even visitors when they are actually in the parish) from this law, and a bishop has the same power in his diocese. The superior of an exempt clerical religious order has the same power in respect to those under his jurisdiction, as also the rector of a seminary with respect to all who live in the seminary. But other religious superiors have no such ordinary power of dispensing.

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