



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,

Our scholastic year has begun smoothly with Fr. Borja, Fr. Sandquist, and myself covering classes for the seminarians and clerics. Besides the United States, there are also a number of other countries represented by our seminarians: Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Austria, France, Scotland and Poland. Although different on a natural level with various accents and temperaments, on a supernatural level they are all very much the same—all striving to become other Christs as Catholic priests.

We congratulate Frater Aloysius Hartman, CMRI who took final vows as a religious during the Pontifical High Mass at the annual Fatima Conference at Mount St. Michael. Frater began to follow his vocation early on when he attended St. Joseph's Minor Seminary in Rathdrum, Idaho. He joins our other religious seminarians in their studies at our religious house in Olathe, Colorado, with Fr. Gregory Drahrman, CMRI.

With the help of modern technology, Fr. Gregory

skypes his Greek class to our seminarians here during 3rd period when I finish my classes with the high school and travel to the seminary for classes in philosophy, dogmatic theology, moral theology, and canon law; at the same time, Fr. Borja finishes his dogmatic theology class in the seminary, he travels to Omaha to teach Spanish to the high school.

During this month we were visited by a Servite Brother who was a refugee from Communist Cuba. By the grace of God and the intercession of Our Lady, Brother Mario, OSM has recognized the errors which emanated from Vatican II and the problems with the Novus Ordo "Mass." He was grateful to be able to spend a week on retreat here at Mary Immaculate Church.

On the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, October 13th, the seminarians and clerics will join our laity for a candlelight Rosary procession. This is always one of the many highlights of the month of October. Let us heed Our heavenly Mother's request to pray the Rosary daily.

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





*Final Vows ceremony of
Frater Aloysius Hartman, CMRI*



*The cutting of hair for the reception
of new CMD novice Sisters*



*Fr. Carlos Borja offers the Solemn High Mass in
honor of St. Michael the Archangel*



*Brother Mario, OSM makes a short retreat at
Mary Immaculate Church*

Christopher Columbus: Devout Catholic, Great Discoverer

excerpts from *The Trials and Triumphs of the Catholic Church in America*

The sun went down flaming into the vast and solitary ocean. Naught but the horizon on its pure azure appeared to the eye. No vapor indicated that land was near, but suddenly—as if by inspiration—Columbus changed his course somewhat, and ordered the helmsman to steer due west. As the caravels came together, all joined according to custom, in singing the *Salve Regina*—our familiar “Hail, holy Queen!”—at the conclusion of which the admiral made them a touching discourse. He spoke of the mercy of that good God who had enabled them to reach seas never cut by keel before. He asked them to raise their hearts in gratitude, and vanquish their fears, that the fulfillment of their hopes was near at hand. That very night, he said, would see the end of their memorable voyage. He finally recommended all to watch and pray, as their eyes would behold land before morning.

At 2 a.m., by the clock of the Santa Maria, a flash came from the Pinta, followed by a loud report—the signal gun. It was no false alarm this time. Roderic de Triana, a sailor on the Pinta, had sighted land. Columbus, at the sound of the gun, fell on his knees and chanted the *Te Deum*; his men responded with full hearts. Then they went wild with joy. The admiral ordered the sails to be furled, and the ships to be put in a state of defense, for it was impossible to say what the daylight might reveal.

It was Friday, the 12th of October, 1492. Friday—the day of the Redemption—was always a blessed day for Columbus. On Friday he sailed from Palos, on Friday he discovered America; on Friday he planted the first cross in the New World; and on Friday he re-entered Palos in triumph. At dawn of this fateful day there was seen issuing from the mists, a flowery land, whose groves, colored by the first golden rays of the morning sun, exhaled an unknown fragrance, and presented most smiling scenes to the eye. In advancing, the men saw before them an island of considerable extent, level, and without any appearance of mountains. Thick forests bounded the horizon, and in the midst of a glade shone the pure and sparkling waters of a lake. Green willows and sunny avenues gave half glimpses into these mysteries of solitude, and revealed

many a scattered dwelling, seeming by its rounded form and roof of dried leaves, to resemble a human hive, from which the curling smoke ascended in the air, greeting the glad sunbeams of that early hour.

When all was ready, the anchors were dropped, orders were given to man the boats, and Columbus, with majestic countenance and great recollection—as one who walked in the presence of God—descended into his own cutter. He was richly attired in the costume of his dignities. A Scarlet mantle hung from his shoulders, and he held displayed in his hand, the image of Jesus Christ on the royal flag. The captains of the Pinta and Nina, Martin and Vincent Pinzon, likewise put off their boats, each accompanied by a well-armed detachment, and bearing the banner of the enterprise emblazoned with a green cross.



With mute delight, and all the elastic ardor of youth the admiral stepped on shore. Scarcely had he touched the new land, when he planted in it the standard of the Cross. His heart swelled with gratitude. In adoration, he prostrated himself before God. Three times bowing his head, with tears in his eyes, he kissed the soil to which he was conducted by the divine

goodness. The sailors participated in the emotions of their commander, and kneeling, as he did, elevated a crucifix in the air. Raising his countenance towards heaven, the gratitude of his soul found expression in that beautiful prayer which has been preserved by history and which was afterwards repeated by order of the sovereigns of Castile in subsequent discoveries.

“Lord! Eternal and Almighty God! Who by Thy sacred word hast created the heavens, the earth, and the seas, may Thy name be blessed and glorified everywhere. May Thy Majesty be exalted, who hast deigned to permit that by Thy humble servant, thy sacred name should be made known and preached in this other part of the world.”

Standing up with great dignity, he displayed the standard of the Cross, offering up to Jesus Christ the first fruits of his discovery. Of himself he thought not. He wished to give all the glory to God, and he named the island San Salvador, which means “Holy Savior.”

Outlines of Moral Theology

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

HOPE

As a supernatural, theological virtue, hope is the virtue which inclines us to expect with firm confidence eternal life and the means to attain it on account of the helping power of God. This definition includes the material and formal object of hope and the chief quality of the act (firm confidence).

The primary material object of hope is eternal life, the possession of God through the beatific vision. The secondary material object is all the means, either necessary or useful, that contribute toward the attainment of this objective. In this category are included both natural and supernatural means.

The sins opposed to hope are two—despair (by defect) and presumption (by excess). A person is guilty of despair when he positively gives up the attempt to attain to eternal life because he judges the attainment of this goal impossible or too difficult for him. Sometimes despair includes a denial of the doctrine that God wills all men to be saved, and in this event, the person would be guilty of a sin against faith also. But, this does not necessarily happen, since, by a strange inconsistency, a person can continue to believe that God wills all to be saved, and yet judge that he himself cannot be saved. The sin of despair in the strict sense is mortal *from its entire nature*, and expels the virtue of hope from the soul. However, despair must not be confounded with discouragement, though people sometimes call this latter despair. Actually it is pusillanimity, and is usually not a grave sin. In fact, it may be only a temptation or a form of scrupulosity.

Presumption may be *against* hope or *beyond* hope. Presumption *beyond hope* does not expel the virtue of hope from the soul, since it consists merely in hoping for gifts of grace from God which He does sometimes give, though not indiscriminately. It may be either venial or mortal. Thus, it would ordinarily be a venial sin for a priest to undertake to preach a Sunday sermon with only slight preparation, hoping that God will help him to preach a very excellent sermon. It would be a mortal sin (against charity to oneself) if a person kept on sinning, year after year, with a firm confidence that God will give him the grace to repent when death is approaching.

Presumption *against hope* is twofold, for in God's plan man is to attain eternal salvation *with the aid of divine grace* and *with his own co-operation*. Hence, a person commits a sin of presumption against hope when he tries to attain to salvation merely by his own efforts, without the aid of divine grace, or when he seeks to be saved only by the aid of divine grace without any co-operation on his part. The former is called Pelagian presumption, the latter Lutheran presumption. Both of these types of presumption are mortal sins by their entire nature, and expel the virtue of hope from the soul.

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:

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