



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,

This year's Fatima Conference at Mount St. Michael's was especially significant, as Bishop Davila and Bishop Espina were in attendance. Both bishops had the opportunity to address all the faithful, and Bishop Espina presented the key note address on this year's theme: "She shall crush thy head." (Genesis 3:15)

The visit of the bishops afforded us the opportunity to discuss our different missions here in the United States and in Central and South America. As my association with these bishops goes back many years, it was wonderful to catch up on the great progress that has been achieved for Holy Mother the Church. Bishop Davila accompanied Bishop Carmona in 1991 to assist at my episcopal consecration and after eight



Bishop Martin Davila (Mexico) and Bishop Pio Espina (Argentina) assist at the Pontifical Mass



Solemn Pontifical Mass during the Fatima Conference at Mount St. Michael in Spokane, Washington

years of working with the Trento priests in Mexico, I had the privilege to consecrate Bishop Davila in 1999, with the late Bishop Daniel Dolan as co-consecrator. I have known Bishop Espina and his brother Fr. Julian Espina since the 1990s when I would travel to Argentina for confirmations. On these rare occasions when we can meet, it is a great opportunity to foster a stronger unity amongst us.

A very important consideration during our meetings was the need to provide a traditional bishop for our priests in Europe. With the war between Russia and the Ukraine and the energy dependence of Europe on Russia, there is a real possibility of travel restrictions to and from Europe, just like we experienced during the Covid-19 lock-downs.

When I think of the traditional Catholic bishops in these times of the Apostasy, I am reminded of Christ's promise to His Apostles: "Go teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you: and behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world." (Matt. 28:19) This promise of Christ is indeed verified today, but not with the false hierarchy of the Conciliar Church of Vatican II. Those who claim to be traditional Catholics and who still recognize the modern clergy



May the Lord put on thee the new man, who, according to God, is created in justice and in the holiness of truth

as the Catholic hierarchy insinuate that Christ has failed His Church. If Christ were with the Vatican II hierarchy, how could He have allowed them to publicly promote the heresies of false ecumenism, religious indifferentism, religious liberty, and modernism? These errors have been clearly condemned by previous popes: Pope Pius IX condemned religious indifferentism and religious liberty in his decree *The Syllabus of Error*; Pope Pius XI explicitly condemned false ecumenism in his encyclical *Mortalium Animos*; Pope St. Pius X condemned the errors of the modernists in his encyclical *Pascendi*. Pope Leo XIII, in his encyclical *Satis Cognitum*, taught that if the living magisterium could in any way be false, an evident contradiction follows; for then God Himself would be the author of error.

Furthermore, the modern hierarchy no longer possess the power of orders for the simple reason that after Vatican II, in 1968, Paul VI introduced a substantial change in the form of the consecration of bishops. This new form neither expresses the power of the order that the bishop receives nor the grace of the Holy Ghost—both of which are necessary for the conferring of episcopal consecration (*Sacramentum*



Frater Martin Sentman, CMRI (Michigan) receives Clerical Tonsure



Seminarians refurbish the high altar for the new church in Huntsville, Alabama

Ordinis Pope Pius XII, 1947). No, the promise of Christ to be with His Church all days is not fulfilled with this modern Conciliar Church of Vatican II.

Nevertheless, Our Lord did promise to be with the Apostles and their successors “to the consummation of the world.” This is fulfilled in the traditional Catholic bishops who both possess valid orders and profess the Catholic Faith whole and entire. The late Bishop Guerard des Lauriers held that the traditional clergy have the “missio” (mission) of the Catholic Church. Vatican Council I (in 1870) reiterated that there would always be teachers and pastors in the Church to the end of time.

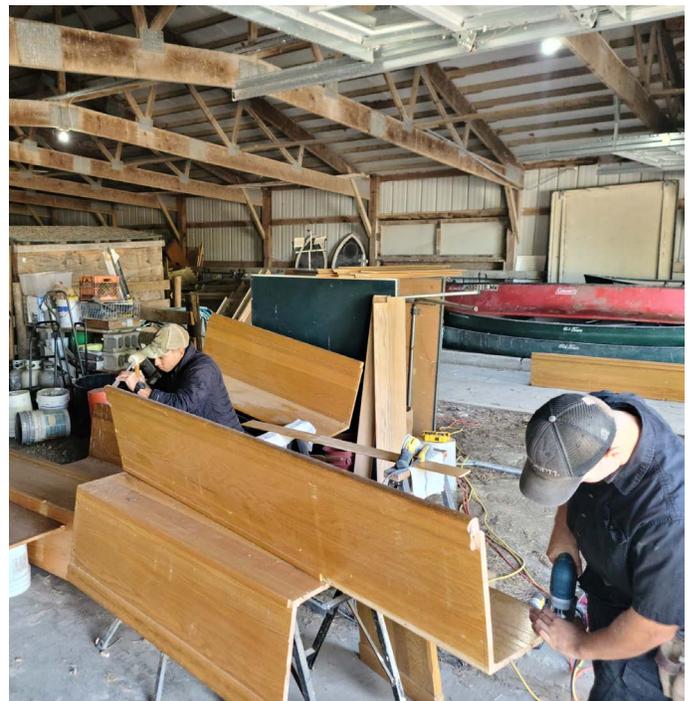
We should be grateful to Almighty God and the Blessed Virgin Mary that there were Catholic bishops and priests who were able to recognize the Apostasy that had occurred following the Second Vatican Council and the introduction of the new form for consecration of bishops and of the Novus Ordo “Mass.” They indeed had the grace of God and the gift of wisdom to continue the Catholic Faith in those times of great contradiction and confusion.

Please pray for our seminarians who will receive the minor orders and our subdeacons who will advance to the diaconate this coming December. God willing, we will have 6 new priests ordained in May at the

end of our scholastic year. This does not mean that the newly ordained priests will be immediately sent out on their own to those parishes who do not have a resident priest. This has not been the practice of the Church, nor is it prudent. They will continue their formation under the guidance of older priests similar to young doctors who take up a residency, or to newly trained mechanics who take up an apprenticeship.

During this month of November, our seminarians will have the opportunity to assist the Holy Souls in Purgatory. They will recite daily prayers for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed, visit cemeteries and, most importantly, assist at multiple Masses on November 2nd. How unfortunate that this doctrine of Purgatory has been cleverly suppressed by the Novus Ordo Church. In place of the requiem Mass with the supplications for the faithful departed, the so-called “Mass” of the resurrection in white implies that the person departed is already in Heaven and that this should be celebrated. What a tragedy!

Not only during the month of November but always, let us recall the words of Sacred Scripture: “It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from sins.” (2 Mach. 12:46) With my prayers and blessing,
Most Rev. Mark A. Pivarunas, CMRI



Seminarians modify the new pews for the seminary chapel

More Answers to Today's Moral Problems

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

COUNTRY OR CONSCIENCE?

Question: One of the questions sometimes put to Catholics in the United States is this: “In the event that there was a conflict between the laws of our country and the teachings of the Catholic Church, which would you obey?” What reply should a Catholic give to this query?

Answer: The question quoted by our correspondent is often intended to put Catholics in a situation in which they can be blamed, whatever the answer they may give. If they answer that they would obey the civil law, they will be told that they are not consistent with the principles of the Catholic Faith; if they answer that they would obey the teachings of the Church, they will be accused of disloyalty to their country.

I believe that the best rejoinder to this question is to question the interrogator: “What would you do if a civil law was passed that would be contrary to the law of God as your conscience dictates?”

Most of the citizens of our land accept the principle that in a conflict between civil legislation and the divine law, the latter should be given precedence. Actually, the American government put this principle into operation several years ago, to refute some of the Nazi war criminals. When they claimed that they performed acts of cruelty because they were commanded to do so by their civil laws or by their superiors, they were told that there is a higher law (the law which is called the natural law by Catholics) which must be obeyed, even when it is contrary to the civil laws or the laws of superiors. Most of the citizens of our land accept this principle, whatever be their religious beliefs.

However, if some legislative act were passed in our land which the Church would officially declare contrary to the law of God, Catholics would accept the decision of their Church. For example, if any state legalized “mercy killing” (and attempts are being made to pass such a measure in some of our states) Catholics would be bound in conscience to refuse all participation in this procedure, which is simply murder. Thus, a Catholic judge would not be permitted to authorize the killing of a sick person, a Catholic doctor would not be allowed to administer a lethal drug, even though this were commanded by state law or civil officials. Catholics should not hesitate to explain these principles to their non-Catholic fellow citizens. We are not ashamed to declare our stand—that in the event of a conflict between civil law and God’s law as authoritatively declared by our Church, we should give preference to God’s law.

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