



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,

How often the seed of a vocation to the priesthood or the religious life is fostered in the atmosphere of good Catholic families who pray together and fervently practice their Faith. What great joy there is for parents to see their son raised to the holy priesthood and ascend the altar of God in the Person of Christ.

As often as I have ordained men to the priesthood (51 ordinations), it is always a joy to my heart to see the newly ordained priests give their parents their first priestly blessing. How many prayers and sacrifices have been made by fathers and mothers to support their sons on their spiritual journey, not only when they were living at home, but especially during their formation in the seminary.

It is a sacrifice for parents to have their sons

leave home and give their life to the service of God, as it is for the young men to leave home and dedicate their life to Christ and the Church. It reminds me of the first words of Christ recorded in the Gospel to His Blessed Mother, “Did you not know I must be about My Father’s business?”

All of you friends and benefactors are a part of the spiritual work of the seminary in the formation of men for the priesthood. The seminary could not adequately function without your prayers and financial support. For this the seminarians, priests and I are most grateful. Each month you are remembered in a special Mass for the benefactors of the seminary.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Maternal and Immaculate Heart of Mary keep you safe this summer.

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



Robert and Margaret Armour — joyful parents of Fr. Caleb Armour (from Scotland)



First Solemn High Mass of Fr. Caleb Armour, assisted by Fr. Johannes Heyne



First Solemn High Mass of Fr. Aloysius Hartman, CMRI, assisted by Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI



Mrs. Karen Hartman with her son Fr. Aloysius Hartman, CMRI (Arizona)



First Solemn High Mass of Fr. Matias Chimenton, assisted by Fr. Casa Silva



Fr. Casa Silva with his spiritual son Fr. Matias Chimenton (Argentina)



*Fr. Adam Craig, First Solemn High Mass in Michigan,
with Fr. Francisco Radecki, CMRI assisting*



*Randy and Anne Craig
with their son Fr. Adam Craig (Michigan)*



*First Solemn High Mass of Fr. Giles Pardue,
assisted by Fr. Francis Miller, OFM*



*Harold and Suzanne Pardue
with their son Fr. Giles Pardue (Alabama)*

Fr. Connell Answers Moral Questions

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

ASSISTANCE AT MASS IN THE "CRYING ROOM"

Question: In some churches nowadays a "crying room" is installed—that is, an enclosed room, with a window looking to the altar, in order that parents can keep their young children there during the Holy Sacrifice without disturbing the congregation. My difficulty is this: If the room is soundproof, so that the priest cannot be heard at all, can we say that these parents are truly hearing Mass?

Answer: The questioner need have no fear that those who are in the "crying room" do not fulfill their obligation of assisting at the Holy Sacrifice. It fully suffices for the observance of this precept if the faithful *see* what is taking place at the altar, even though they cannot *hear* it. It is more correct to say that we must *assist* at Mass on Sundays rather than that we must *hear* Mass. Of course, it would be advisable if a room of this kind were equipped with an acoustic system whereby the parents who come there with their little ones will be enabled to hear the voice of the priest and to derive benefit from the sermon.

SUNDAY OBSERVANCE

Question: If the members of a Catholic family living far away from the church are unable on this account to attend Mass on Sunday, are they bound by the divine law, promulgated in the third commandment, to devote some portion of the Sunday to private worship?

Answer: The solution of this question goes back to the problem of the basis of the law prescribing the sanctification of Sunday. Under the Old Dispensation the divine law, contained in the third commandment, imposed on the chosen people the obligation to observe the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, as the Lord's Day. However, this precept, like the other ceremonial prescriptions of the Old Law, ceased with the promulgation of the New Law (Cf. St. Thomas, *Sum. theol.*, I-II, q. 103, a. 3). In the Christian Dispensation the Lord's Day has become the first day of the week.

For the due observance of Sunday the Church has commanded that Christians attend Mass and abstain from servile work as well as from certain other types of activity, such as holding court. The people described by the questioner must abstain from forbidden work, as far as they are able; but, in the presumption that they are excused from hearing Mass by reason of distance from the church, they are not bound to perform any special acts of worship on Sunday—though they must pray, make acts of the theological virtues, etc., with sufficient frequency and regularity throughout the year. Needless to say, however, such persons should be strongly urged to set aside a period of time on Sunday for devotional acts, such as reading the Mass of the day in the vernacular and reciting the rosary.

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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