



Adsum

Adsum is published by **Mater Dei Seminary** for the enjoyment of our families, friends, and benefactors.

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Our seminary property is located in the rural area of western Iowa about 50 minutes from Omaha and across the Missouri River from Nebraska. A mere fifteen minutes away is the small town of Earling, Iowa, which was the scene of the famous exorcism recorded in the booklet *Begone Satan*.

In 1928, Fr. Theophilus Riesinger, OFM.Cap., while conducting a mission in the parish, requested Fr. Steiger, the pastor, to perform a formal exorcism over a woman who had suffered the harassment of the devil for fourteen years. For those who have never read the account of this exorcism, it would surely awaken in your soul the reality of the spiritual warfare that takes place in this world.



St. Joseph's Church in Earling, Iowa, fifteen minutes from the seminary



Seminarians pray for the Holy Souls in the Catholic cemetery in Earling, Iowa

Our priests and seminarians visited the beautiful church of Earling, Iowa (St. Joseph's), which has not been modernized by the Conciliar Church; during this visit they prayed at the cemetery in order to obtain the indulgences for the Holy Souls during the octave of All Souls' Day.

When we consider the terrible spiritual state of the world today and the great confusion within the Church, how increasingly relevant is the message of Our Lady of Fatima. She came as a loving Mother with the concern of the eternal loss of souls: "Pray, pray very much, and make sacrifices for sinners; for many souls go to Hell, because there are none to sacrifice themselves and pray for them." The Mother of God knows the great price that her Divine Son paid on the Cross to redeem souls, and as a loving Mother she lamented at Fatima that this is the greatest tragedy in the world today: "So many souls go to Hell."

The bottom line and the most important issue that faces the world today is the eternal loss of souls. And this is the reason why the work of the seminary is so essential—to prepare young men to carry on the mission of the Church to save souls and to be other Christs: to offer the Sacrifice of the Mass, to administer the Sacraments for the sanctification of souls, and to preach the Word of God.



Seminarians carry the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in a Rosary Procession on October 13th



Solemn High Mass for the feast of the Divine Maternity, our seminary Patroness

With this in mind, we ask you to please pray for our seminarians who will be taking steps in advancing towards the priesthood this December 12th, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

On occasion we include in this newsletter good news from our clergy around the world. Fr. Eugen Rissling recently blessed a new chapel for his congregation in Ulm, Germany. Also, Bishop Pio Espina (from Argentina) traveled all the way to the Philippines to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to our faithful there who are under the spiritual care of Fr. Gerard McKee, CMRI, Fr. Brendan Legg (from New Zealand) and Fr. Alexander Krysov (from Russia).

As we make greater efforts during this month of November to pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, let us not forget the importance of making atonement for our own sins, especially by the patient carrying of our daily crosses.

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



Fr. Eugen Rissling blesses his new chapel in Ulm, Germany



Bishop Pio Espina visits our mission in the Philippines

American Ecclesiastical Review

An excerpt

CATHOLIC ASSISTING AT AN INVALID MARRIAGE

Question: If a Catholic assists at the attempted marriage of a Catholic before a non-Catholic clergyman does he incur the same excommunication that is incurred by the Catholic party of the marriage? The reason for believing that he may incur this penalty is the statement of Canon 2231 that in certain circumstances those who concur in the perpetration of a delict incur the same penalty as the chief culprit.

Answer: According to Canon 2231 only those co-operators incur the same penalty as the principal offender who co-operate in the ways mentioned in Canon 2209, § § 1-3. Now, the mere assistance at an attempted marriage of a Catholic before a non-Catholic clergyman would not put one in any of the categories mentioned in these paragraphs; though it would do so if it constituted an inducement to the marriage so that otherwise the Catholic party would not attempt it.

However, it is well to remember that, even though a penalty is not incurred, the assistance of a Catholic at the attempted marriage of a Catholic before a non-Catholic minister, except in very rare cases, is so proximately a cause of grave scandal and even a manifestation of contempt of the authority of the Church that it must be regarded as a grave sin. A decree of the Congregation of the Propaganda in 1874 stated that regularly such attendance is forbidden, though it added that it could be tolerated for the sake of civil duty only (*civilis officii causa tantum*), provided there be no scandal, danger of perversion, or contempt of ecclesiastical authority. In our country today the danger of scandal and contempt of ecclesiastical authority are almost always present. Hence, when priests are asked about the lawfulness of attending the marriage of a Catholic relative or friend in a non-Catholic church, the answer should practically always be “No.”

Davis says: “Assistance at a mixed marriage in a Protestant church would not be tolerated, since this would be co-operating in violating a serious church law which forbids mixed marriages without dispensation, and such a marriage would now be invalid” (*Moral and Pastoral Theology* [London, 1945], I, 286). Treating the subject more fully, Bancroft says: “It is certain that Catholics may not be present at such marriages when their presence contains, manifests or implies an approval of the marriage. It seems that, barring other dangers and a sinful intention, friends and distant relatives may be present for a more grave reason in proportion to the greater danger of scandal. Near relatives, and especially parents, brothers and sisters, however, would seldom have a reason justifying their presence, because of the grave scandal necessarily connected with it, because of their obligation to admonish the one who is sinning, and in some cases, because of contempt for the regulations of the Church” (*Communication of Religious Worship with Non-Catholic* [Catholic University of America Press, Washington, D.C., 1943], p. 129).

Adsum, a publication 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