

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,

On the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, September 29th, Rev. Thomas Netzel (Spokane, WA), Rev. Richard Lauricella (Spokane, WA) and Rev. Kyle St. Aubin (Canada) will be ordained to the holy priesthood at Mt. St. Michael. The reason for this location for the ordinations in Spokane is that two of the ordinandi attended St. Michael's Academy; how appropriate it is for them to be ordained there.

After ordination, Rev. Kyle St. Aubin will continue to assist Fr. Saunders at Our Lady of Victory in London, Ontario; Rev. Richard Lauricella will assist Fr. Casimir Puskorius, CMRI at Mt. St. Michael; Rev. Thomas Netzel will be assigned to assist Fr. Adam Craig at Immaculate Conception in Sartell, Minnesota.

Prior to the start of the scholastic classes in the seminary, Mater Dei Academy has begun classes (K-12 grades) on the Monday following the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This year our enrollment is 112 students; this includes our boarding students from out-of-state. There are 16 boys whose boarding facility is on church property in Omaha; and 14 boarder girls, whose residences are in Iowa at the CMD convent and at

St. Philomena's House.

Every year we are blessed with donations from western Colorado with 100 boxes of peaches, truck loads of potatoes from central Nebraska, and truck loads of apples from western Iowa. May God bless our benefactors for their kindness and generosity!

The month of September has such beautiful feastdays in honor of Our Blessed Mother: the

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (September 8), the Holy Name of Mary (September 12), the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary (September 15), and Our Lady of Ransom (September 24).

This last feast is also the anniversary of my episcopal consecration in 1991 by Bishop Moises Carmona. It is hard to believe 35 years have gone by so quickly. My episcopal motto is *Animam Pro Ovibus Ponere* (to lay down my life for the sheep). At the top of the coat of arms is the

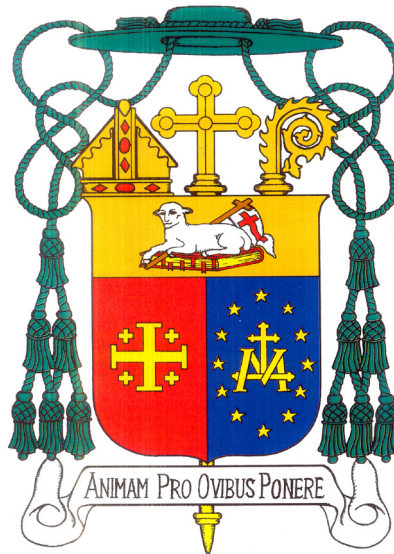


image of Christ the Lamb of God, Who as the Good Shepherd laid down His life for us, His sheep. In the bottom left is the crusader cross, which signifies multiple things: the four smaller crosses represent those nations who fought in the crusades; the five crosses represent the five Wounds of Christ; and, lastly, the four smaller crosses represent the four Gospels. When a bishop is consecrated, the book of Gospels is placed on his shoulders to signify the

mission that Christ gave to His Apostles and their successors: to teach all nations all things whatsoever He had commanded.

In the bottom right corner is the “M” surmounted by the cross. This symbol was given by Our Blessed Mother to St. Catherine Laboure when she requested the Miraculous Medal. It reminds us that as Jesus has come into this world through the Blessed Virgin Mary, we ought to go to Jesus through His own dear Mother. May Our Lady assist me to be faithful to that motto!

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Daniel Kramer of Sartell, Minnesota. He was the cousin of Fr. Augustine Walz, CMRI, and he leaves behind his wife Leah and their 9 young children. This has been a particularly heavy cross for Leah, because in April she lost her closest friend Audrey Hockel (a niece of Fr. Augustine, CMRI). Both Daniel and Audrey fought with cancer this past year and died truly Catholic deaths. Never would I have known not too many years ago, when I had the

privilege to officiate at Daniel and Leah’s wedding and also Audrey and Caleb’s wedding, how soon they would be separated in this life. May Jesus and Mary support Leah and her children and also Caleb and his children during this time of bereavement.

As members of the Mystical Body of Christ, we are a spiritual family and need to support one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. Please also remember in your charity Christina DelaTorre, a 13 year old who was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. She suffers bravely and in her difficult moments asks her father, “Daddy, are you okay?” Needless to say, her mother and father are in need of spiritual support from our prayers.

As much as we grieve over these sad situations on a human level, let us never forget that God uses these human tragedies for our spiritual benefit. Christ tells us that we know not the day nor the hour and to be always ready.

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



Audrey Hockel (April 29, 1989 - March 31, 2026)



Daniel Kramer (May 4, 1988 - August 27, 2026)

Homily of St. Robert Bellarmine on the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary

At that time: There were standing by the cross of Jesus His mother and His mother's sister, Mary of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. And so forth. (John 19:25-27)

The burden and yoke which Our Lord imposed on St. John, that He take care of His Virgin Mother, was indeed a sweet yoke and a light burden. Who indeed would not esteem it a happiness to dwell under the same roof with her, who for nine months had borne in her womb the Incarnate Word, and for thirty years had enjoyed the sweetest and happiest communication of sentiments with Him? Who does not envy the chosen disciple of Our Lord, who in the absence of the Son of God, was given the presence of the Mother of God? Yet, if I am not mistaken, we can obtain by our prayers that our most kind Lord, who became man for our sakes and was crucified for love of us, should say to us: Behold thy Mother; and should say to His Mother for each one of us: Behold thy son.

Our good Lord is not avaricious of His graces, if only we approach the throne of grace with faith and confidence, with a true sincere but not a false heart. He who wishes to have us coheirs in the kingdom of His Father, will certainly not disdain to have us coheirs in the love of His Mother. Nor will the most

benign Virgin herself take it amiss to have a countless number of children, since she has a heart capable of embracing all of us, and ardently desires that not even one of those souls should perish whom her divine Son redeemed with His Precious Blood, and His still more precious Death. And so let us approach with confidence the throne of the grace of Christ, and with tears let

us humbly beg of Him to say to His Mother for each of us: Behold thy son; and to each one of us concerning His Mother: Behold thy Mother.

How secure shall we be under the protection of such a Mother? Who will dare to drag us from her bosom? What temptation can overcome us if we confide in the protection of the Mother of God and of our Mother? Nor will we be the first who have secured such a great favor. Many have preceded us; many, I say, have placed themselves under the singular



and really maternal protection of so powerful a Virgin, and no one has been cast off by her with his soul in a perplexed and sad state, but all who confide in the patronage of such a Mother are happy and contented. For of her it is written: She shall crush the head, and so those who trust in her will tread safely upon the asp and the viper, and will trample under foot the lion and the dragon. Nor does it seem that he can perish, of whom Christ said to the Virgin: Behold thy son, provided he is not deaf to the words of Christ: Behold thy Mother.

Moral Theology

by Rev. Heribert Jone, OFM, CAP, JCD and Rev. Urban Adelman, OFM, CAP, JCD

SPONSORS

I. Necessity of Sponsors:

1. For *solemn Baptism* there is a grave obligation to have a sponsor (C. 762).

If only one sponsor is had it may be a man or woman. If two are had, one must be a man and the other a woman (C. 764). If two men or two women stand for a child it would be a venial sin if both sponsors are of the same sex as the child. It is not certain whether in other cases there would be a grave sin since the new Code. —Not more than two sponsors are permissible (C. 764). If the parents have designated more than two the superfluous ones may be admitted as honorary sponsors or baptismal witnesses.

2. In *private Baptism* there should also be a sponsor if one can easily be had; if one is not employed a sponsor should at least be present when the ceremonies are supplied (C. 762).

3. If in *conditional repetition* of Baptism the same sponsor can be had who was present for the first Baptism, he must be engaged. In other cases where Baptism is conditionally repeated no sponsor is necessary (C. 763).

If the sponsor for the first Baptism is unavailable a different one may be procured. A sponsor must be secured when the ceremonies are to be supplied if there was no sponsor for the first Baptism (Cf. C. 762).

II. Conditions for Valid and Lawful Sponsorship:

1. *Validity* requires the following conditions for the godparent (C. 765).

a) He must be *baptized*, have the *use of reason* and the *intention* of acting as sponsor.

b) He must not be a member of any heretical or schismatical *sect*; nor be *excommunicated* by condemnatory or declaratory sentence, nor *infamous* by law, and not be barred from legitimate ecclesiastical acts. Likewise no *deposed* or *degraded* cleric may be sponsor.

c) The godparent must not be the *father, mother or spouse* of the one to be baptized.

d) He must be *designated* as the sponsor either by the person to be baptized or by his parents or guardians; in default of these, by the minister of Baptism.

If the parents choose as sponsor one who has not the qualifications required for valid and lawful sponsorship the minister may reject him and designate another. Should the person rejected nevertheless touch the child during Baptism he would not thereby become the godparent. —If no one has been chosen as sponsor, but someone nevertheless touches the child with the intention of acting as sponsor his action does not make him sponsor.

e) He must physically *hold or touch* the one being baptized or *receive* the baptized person from the sacred font or from the hands of the minister.

It is not required that the sponsor answer the questions. —One can be sponsor also by proxy.

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