

October, 2010



Adsum

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



Clerical Tonsure bestowed on Michael Oswalt

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

This October has been significant indeed. On October 7, the feast of the Holy Rosary, Michael Oswald, a former Novus Ordo priest, received the traditional Clerical Tonsure and the four Minor Orders (Porter, Lector, Exorcist, Acolyte). This was a joyful occasion and provides a wonderful example for other modern “priests” who have approached me over the years with doubts about the validity of their Orders, and have lacked the courage to rectify their situation. Please continue to pray for Michael as he continues his review of Moral Theology and Canon Law.

The other unique matter to relate is a very special gift that was presented to me from a young lady from England. During the Fatima Conference, Emily Hatfield had a gift from her deceased mother Kathleen, who received it from the late Fr. Oswald Baker, a well known traditional priest from England. In 1951, Fr. Baker visited Fatima, Portugal on pilgrimage. There he visited the basilica of Our Lady of Fatima and also the home of Jacinta and Francisco Marto, two of the three Fatima children whom Our Lady had appeared and whom Our Lady promised would go to Heaven.



Michael Oswald receives the Minor Order of Lector



Danny Short (Oklahoma) and Alex Odom (Idaho) receives the Cassock

During Fr. Baker’s visit, Senhora Marto, the mother of Jacinta and Francisco, gave to Father the rosary belonging to Jacinta. When Fr. Baker passed away, Kathleen Hatfield received this little treasure. This past year Kathleen was called to eternity after a struggle with cancer. She was a very devout Catholic and had cancer many years ago when her two children were very young. She prayed to God to live long enough to raise her children in the true faith and then would accept any suffering and death. Her prayers were heard, for her cancer went into remission until this past year when the son and daughter came of age - having been raised in the traditional Catholic Faith as parishioners of Fr. Baker.

I had the privilege to meet Fr. Baker, and over the years had sent him the holy oils for the administration of the Sacraments. I was always impressed by Fr. Baker’s deep faith and his respect for my episcopacy, even though he was many years my senior. After he passed away, I sent our priests to Downham Market, England to administer the Sacraments for his parishioners.

At our past Fatima Conference, Emily kindly bequeathed to me Jacinta Marto’s rosary. I am very grateful for this gift, for it renews my dedication to spread the message of Our Lady of Fatima.

With my prayers & blessings,
Most Rev. Mark A. Pivarunas, CMRI

Christopher Columbus

(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 two 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."

Father Connell Answers Moral Questions

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

Missing Sunday Mass for Vacation

Question: What is to be said about Catholics who miss Mass on Sunday because they have gone into the lake regions or the woods for the purpose of hunting, fishing, etc., over the weekend?

Answer: It is a deplorable fact that in recent years the sin of missing Mass on Sunday has become more common among Catholics in the United States. Priests should recognize the danger to the Faith inevitably connected with this custom, and strive to avert it by impressing our people with the importance of Sunday Mass in Catholic life. It is true, there can be legitimate reasons excusing a Catholic from the obligation of attending Mass on Sunday; but these reasons should not be inordinately extended. The motive of recreation is an example of a reason that may be stretched too far. It is held by reliable theologians that if a person can obtain needed recreation only in a section of the country where there is no church or only in circumstances in which he cannot hear Mass, he can be justified in missing Mass *once or twice*, or at most a *few times a year*. However, Catholics should be told that this concession may not be used except when there is considerable difficulty in getting to Mass from the place of recreation, and that it may be used only rarely (once or twice a year, according to Fanfani; a *few times* according to Konings). In these days of automobiles and motorboats, Catholics can generally get to Mass even from remote parts of the woods and the lake regions. Certainly, a person would not be excused from attending Mass merely because the journey to church would take an hour by car. And a Catholic can make use of recreation as an excusing cause only when he cannot find the needed recreation in a place where he can get to Mass on Sundays.

Violation of an Oath

Question: A devout convert from Lutheranism is troubled in conscience about this matter: As a Lutheran he served as godfather to a child in Baptism and took an oath that he would bring the child up in the Lutheran religion if the parents died. Actually both parents have died, and this gentleman now becomes a Catholic, wonders if he is bound to fulfill his oath by seeing that the child attends Lutheran religious services, Sunday school, etc. What advice should be given to this good man?

Answer: The gentleman in question deserved a great credit for his consistency when, as a Lutheran, he promised under oath to bring up his godchild as a Lutheran in the event of the parents' death. However, in that same spirit of consistency he must now refuse to fulfill that promise, since he now knows that what he promised is objectively opposed to God's law. The promissory oath that he took does not change the nature of the promise to which it is joined. In this case the promise (to do something objectively wrong) was invalid; and the same is true of the oath. Hence, the gentleman has no obligation to bring up the child as a Lutheran, but on the contrary must abstain from any activities of such a nature.

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