



Adsum

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LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

As often as I travel to our various Mass centers throughout the country, I am reminded of the reality of the words of Our Lord, "The harvest is indeed great, but the laborers are few." The great need of the Church today is priestly and religious vocations. Our seminarians and young religious Brothers and Sisters are the future of the Church.

To foster new vocations, we have in Omaha, besides the seminary, an academy (K-12 grades) and two boarding houses (one for boys and one for girls). Although it is a challenge to operate these two entities, the fact that some of these young men and women enter the seminary and the convent is spiritually rewarding.

Our boarder students have the benefit of Mass on an almost daily basis. The boarder boys and girls make up the bulk of our choirs at both Sunday Masses in Omaha. Because the boys are around the priests and seminarians and the girls are around the Sisters, they can get a good view of the clerical and religious states on a regular basis.

There are many avenues for all of our young people to pursue. They could study to be doctors and nurses and help people in a physical manner. They could be laborers in the areas of carpentry, plumbing, electricity, etc. and provide a temporal good to their neighbor. They could pursue the marriage vocation and raise future members of the Church.

However, priests and religious labor solely for a spiritual good that has no price. They are instruments of God in the salvation of souls. What works they perform directly or indirectly benefits souls, redeemed by the Precious Blood

of Christ, not only for time but for eternity.

Where would we be today without priests and religious? Most of my own school years were spent in Catholic schools. Never will I forget Sr. Mary Grace, OSM who prepared me for my First Holy Communion (2nd grade) and Confirmation (3rd grade). What a profound effect Sr. Mary Julianna, SSC had on me (6th grade). Her class was indeed a turning point in my academic life. How many priests who are now deceased inspired me to strive for holiness! The late Fr. Clement Kubesh was my confessor and the late Fr. Denis Chicoine, CMRI was my superior in the seminary. They were dedicated priests who put God and the salvation of souls first and foremost.

It is no small task for our priests and religious to operate the seminary, the academy, and the boarding facilities. Nevertheless, this is a necessity if we are to continue to have vocations for the future of the Church.

The most important element and the key factor for vocations is the grace of God. How many young people hear the voice of God calling them and yet do not respond! The world and fallen human nature dissuades them. They need the grace of God to overcome all obstacles.

For this reason, Our Lord immediately added to "The harvest is indeed great but the laborers are few," the words "Pray the Lord of the harvest, that He send laborers into His harvest."

Let us never underestimate the necessity of prayer for vocations! While on this topic, I would like to once again thank all of you for your prayers and support!

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



Mater Dei Academy

Father Connell Answers Moral Questions

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

Baptismal Record of an Illegitimate Child

Question: Recently I baptized an illegitimate child, and entered in the register the names of the mother and of the persons who acted as sponsors. Shortly afterward the child was adopted. I have now received from the Catholic lawyer who arranged the adoption a baptismal certificate, all made out, with the same names of the adopting couple recorded as the true parents and two relatives as the godparents. The lawyer requested that I sign a certificate and enter the baptism in the register in accordance with these fictitious data. What can I do in such circumstances?

Answer: There must be kept in the church files a true account of the baptized person's parentage, as far as this can be known, and this information must be available to the ecclesiastical authorities on occasions when it may be pertinent, especially if the individual later plans to marry, or to enter the religious life or the priesthood. This does not mean, however, that the full and correct data must necessarily be presented on the baptismal certificate when the reason for demanding the document is only to obtain assurance that the person received Catholic baptism—for example, on the occasion of the admittance of a child to a Catholic school or to First Holy Communion. Illegitimacy need not be revealed in such circumstances; indeed, some fictitious data may be presented. Such, at least, is the opinion of Msgr. E. Robert Arthur, of the Washington Archdiocese, in an excellent article on this difficult problem in *The Jurist*, of January, 1953. In certain circumstances, he says, "one would hardly object if the local Ordinary should authorize the issuance of certificates for the adopted exactly like those customarily used in this country, with names of the adoptive parent inserted as if they were the natural parents, and even with the others than the real sponsors given as godparents." Msgr. Arthur would even permit both the true and the "quasi-record" to be inscribed in the register, but always in such a wise that the former is available in such instances as marriage, entrance into a seminary or a religious institute, etc. Such a procedure, however, should not be used unless it is approved by the local Ordinary.

Record of Private Baptism

Question: If the child of non-Catholic parents is baptized privately by a nurse in the hospital because the little one is in danger of death, is there an obligation on the part of the nurse to inform anyone of the Baptism or to make a record of it, in the event that the child recovers?

Answer: In the case described a record of the Baptism should be kept either by the hospital chaplain or (preferably) by the pastor of the place where the child's parents reside. The nurse should see that the information is given to either of these two. The record in question should be kept in a private book, not in the regular baptismal register. If it is evident that the child's parents would not object to the Baptism or may even have desired it, they can be informed. (Cf. McAllister, *Emergency Baptism* [Milwaukee, 1945], pp 17 f.)

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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