



Adsum

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LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

During March, the month of St. Joseph (patron saint of vocations), Fr. Gerard McKee CMRI, assisted as translator for me in Guadalajara, Mexico, where I administered the Sacrament of Confirmation and ordained two Carmelite religious to the Diaconate and two other religious to the First Clerical Tonsure.

It was also an opportunity for me to visit the Carmelite Sisters and the Sisters of Divine Providence (founded by the late Bishop Moises Carmona).

Although it was only a quick, four day trip, I manage to also fly north to Torreon, Mexico, to administer Confirmation and to visit the faithful there. The priests, religious, and laity were very appreciative of my visit, and for my part, I certainly treasured this

opportunity to provide for the spiritual needs of these wonderful Catholics south of the border in the land of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

It is always a great edification to see the zeal and dedication of these clergy, religious, and laity to preserve the true faith in a country whose government and civil laws once prohibited the practice of the Faith and executed priests, religious and laity, who did not comply. Although the physical persecution of the Catholic Church no longer exists, there still are restrictions. One example is that it is forbidden for any schools to be named after the saints; on the other hand, there is no problem to name schools after Freemasons who were notorious for persecuting the Catholic Church.

The traditional movement in Mexico is alive and well; this is such a significant reminder that no matter how successful Satan has been to destroy the Faith, Our Lady crushes his proud head and is ever a spiritual





First Clerical Tonsure



*The Imposition of Hands
for the Diaconate*



Sisters of Divine Providence



Carmelite Sisters

Mother to protect and to defend her children from the snares of the devil. May St. Joseph intercede for us that God may grant us more holy priests and religious to continue the mission of the Church.

As we near Holy Week, let us remember that just as Christ suffered and died for us, His Mystical Body will also undergo a spiritual crucifixion.

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

An Excerpt from *The Path of Mary*

We live in perilous times; we are surrounded by dangers and temptations almost unparalleled in the history of the world. The Church, the Spouse of Jesus, seems to have followed the life of her Lord, and to have exemplified in herself its various stages. There has been the hidden life of the early ages of the Church, followed by the more Public Life; then arose an increased devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, followed by the Agony in the Garden; and we seem to be now bordering on the times when the Church will mirage, will reflect, will, in fact, mystically reproduce the crucifixion of her Divine Head and Master. We may draw out this parallel more clearly by glancing at the rise of the Religious Orders which spring up from age to age in the Church, and whose members, as more perfect members of the Church, are bound to represent more closely the life of Our Lord. We see the Hidden Life of Jesus in the Fathers of the Desert, and in the contemplatives of the early ages of the Church. They are followed by the more active orders of the Dominicans, Franciscans, and Jesuits, who exemplified the Public Life of Our Lord, the time when "He went about preaching everywhere and doing good." Religious Orders followed, devoted to the Blessed Sacrament. Convents arose, whose inmates, night and day watch before the adorable Mystery of the Altar, praising and thanking Jesus for this His greatest Invention of Love. The last Order established in our own times, and as yet but little known, is a strict, contemplative Order; and its members consecrate themselves entirely to honour the Agony in the Garden.

These Orders do not rise and fall; they but continue the Life of Our Lord; they make up His Body, the Church. Thus, as I have said, the Church appears to be reaching the time when she will be mystically crucified with her Lord. The powers of darkness are evidently allowed a strange *power* of temptation: "it is their hour." Even many of Our Lord's own have fallen away. Throughout the Church there is unusual distress of soul and body. You who read this may have thought your trials peculiar to yourself: but you are mistaken. Your neighbour suffers still more perhaps than



you, though you know it not. He is sorely tempted and tried; and he, too, thinks his grief peculiar to himself. Well for those who are watching! Well for those who are assiduous in obtaining the graces Mother Church offers them. There will not be a grace too much given them, for "Satan will deceive, if possible, even the elect." Well for those who are watching! Morning and night we need the sweet voice of Jesus to repeat to us the warning words the loving anxiety of His Heart prompted Him to utter: "Watch and pray." "Watch and pray." I do not write to alarm you: it is to

forewarn you. You have wondered, perhaps, when you have heard of the falling away from the Church of even the very good. You have sorrowed, perhaps, over some sad instance, it may be in your own family or community, of some unhappy soul for whom the temptations of the age have been too strong. Yes, we have wondered at it. We are thoughtless and careless. We do not fear for others till we see them fall: but we are not wise. Did not our dear Lord "fear" for us? We should be wiser, if we did FEAR more and wonder less. "I never wonder at the fall of any-one" were the remarkable words I have had said to myself by one experienced, by one who had gone through numberless trials and

temptations. We see that the powers of hell are leagued more strongly than ever against her. We cannot but see it. It is visible to our eyes, but the interior conflict, the attacks of Satan against the individual soul, are not so visible, though they are far fiercer and more disastrous than the open attacks made by the emissaries of Satan against the Church. The one is but a figure of the other. Why have I written this? Forewarned is forearmed. If you have intelligence of a threatened danger you will make preparations to defend yourself against it. Now you cannot wish for yourself any good (real good) that God does not wish for you: therefore His Divine Providence has been beforehand, and provided you with a most powerful means of help. It would not be like God to allow us to be unusually tempted, to subject us to great conflicts, without likewise providing us with a far counterbalancing assistance.

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Father Connell Answers Moral Questions

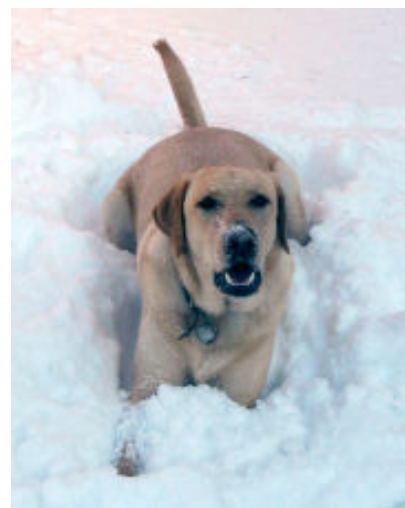
by Very Rev. Francis J. Connell, C.S.S.R., S.T.D., LL.D., L.H.D.

The Rectory Dog

Question: Do you think a pastor should keep a dog in the rectory?

Answer: Neither the divine law nor the general law of the Church forbids a priest to keep a dog. Indeed, such a practice has much in its favor, especially if the pastor is the only priest in the rectory. A devoted dog provides companionship and sometimes protection. He can be the occasion of developing in the priest the admirable trait of kindness to animals (after the example of St. Francis of Assisi) and also of providing his master with healthy exercise when he takes his canine friend for a walk.

However, there are times when the rectory dog proves to be a nuisance and an abuse. Such is the situation when the pastor treats him with more concern and affection than he manifests towards the parishioners and curate. The conduct of the dog toward visiting priests should also be a matter of concern to the pastor. The dog who chases the visitor around the house, or paces back and forth before his door, exhibiting the usual symptoms of rabies, is not man's best friend, as far as the visitor is concerned, even though the pastor assures him: "He won't bite you." Hardly less objectionable is the friendly dog who is admitted to the dining room, where he begs for food with drooling mouth or puts his paw playfully into the soup.



Rambo

(continued from p. 3)

It is not my present purpose to show this conduct of God through the history of the Church. I wish simply to put before you now the special assistance needed at the present time, to enable us to fight successfully the battle which, whether we will or not, we must engage in if we would be saved. What then must we do? What special assistance do we need? Before answering I will ask you a question. At the time of the Passion of Our Lord—that most fearful time of the dominion of Satan, when he was allowed a power he will never be allowed again (though, as I have said, in the Church has already commenced that season of persecution, trial and temptation, in which she will in herself represent again the Passion of Our Lord)—at that memorable time, who, I ask you were the faithful ones that continues with Our Lord to the end? In that time of general temptation, when even Peter denied the Master he loved so well, who were the happy ones (blessed with a special happiness in that terrible hour), who did not abandon their Lord when He for their sakes was seemingly abandoned even by His Heavenly Father? Who hoped and trusted in Him when others despaired? Who, though weeping, adored, whilst the world around scoffed and mocked?

Who were they, and whence had they the strength to stand when others fell? Who were they? Weigh well the answer. *Those who remained in the company of Mary.* Whence had they this great grace? From her all-powerful intercession. As it was *then* so will it be *again*: and it will be well for us to think of this earnestly, seriously; not carelessly, but with thought and prayer. You will say: But have we not already great devotion to our Lady? Do we not all love her? Again, before answering, I will question you. Had not St. Peter devotion to our Lady? Did he not love her, as likewise the other apostles? Yes, O yes; but St. John, who had learnt from the Heart of his Master, the love most pleasing to It, also learnt the most pleasing to the Maternal Heart of Mary, the devotion most efficacious to himself. It was a child's devotion to its mother. On the cross Our Lord but proclaimed and cemented what had been before. Therefore, in the time of trial St. John sought the company of His Mother, according to the revelations of the Saints, returning to her house broken-hearted with the account of what had happened to Jesus. It was in her company that St. John and the holy women walked the weary way to Calvary.

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