



# Adsum

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

## **LETTER FROM THE RECTOR**

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

This newsletter begins by extending our congratulations to Fr. Brendan Hughes, CMRI, who celebrates his 25th Anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood this year.

Fr. Brendan offered a Solemn High Mass on Sunday, June 29, at Immaculate Conception Church in St. Cloud, Minnesota, and was assisted by his brother priest (as deacon) Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI and his brother Dr. Marty Hughes (as Master of Ceremonies).

His parents and some of the Sisters were present (one of his sisters is Sr. Emmanuel Marie, CMRI). Fr. Brendan asked that I preach the sermon at both Masses. Among the many considerations of Father's priesthood, I congratulated his parents Dr. and Mrs. Hughes, for their family is truly blessed to have priestly and religious vocations. We wish Fr. Brendan many more fruitful years of holy priesthood.

During these summer months, Robert Letour-

neau, one of our older seminarians, reviewed classes in Canon Law with me. It was at the time of our bi-annual priests' meeting here in Omaha that he received the minor orders of exorcist and acolyte.

We were indeed blessed this July at our priests' meeting to have in attendance besides our priests from the U.S. and Canada, Fr. Alexander Krysov from Moscow, Russia, Fr. Julian Gilchrist from Adelaide, Australia, and Fra. Leon, OFM, from Guadalajara, Mexico.

Following the priests' meeting, the Sisters of the Congregation of the Mother of God (CMD) will have their 19th annual girls' camp, with nearly 80 girls in attendance this year. Having daily Mass, Rosary, and spiritual reading added to arts and crafts and all sorts of recreational activities, it is a wonderful opportunity for traditional Catholic girls around the country to make long-lasting friendships and it strengthens the bond of charity that unites the Catholic Church.

It is hard to believe that in little over a month, Mater Dei Academy will begin a new school year, to



*Fr. Brendan Hughes, CMRI celebrates his 25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on June 29, 2014, with parishioners, family, and visiting clergy and friends at Immaculate Conception Church in St. Cloud, Minnesota*



*Bi-Annual Priests' Meeting in Omaha*



*Robert Letourneau receives the Minor Orders of Exorcist and Acolyte*



*Fr. Alexander Kryssov in Lithuania visits the grave of his pastor, Fr. Stanislaus Mazeika*

be followed a few weeks later by Mater Dei Seminary with the start of a new scholastic year. Tempus fugit!

During this month of July, we recall Our Lady of Fatima's apparition to Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco in 1917. At the July apparition, Our Lady showed the children a vision of Hell. What a profound and lasting impression this made on the children. How they generously offered prayers and sacrifices for the conversion of poor sinners.

Among the warnings of Our Lady of Fatima, the Mother of God stressed that "more souls go to Hell for sins of the flesh than for any other reason." How important it is for parents to protect their children from occasions of sins via T.V., Internet, etc. How important for our Catholic ladies and girls to be especially modest in dress during the summer months in imitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Once again, thank you for your prayers and support of the Seminary. Be assured of my daily prayers for you, especially during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

With my prayers and blessing,

Most. Rev Mark A. Pivarunas, CMRI

## Excerpts from Pastoral Letter “Modesty in Dress”

(Bishop Mark A. Pivarunas, CMRI)

With the warmer weather of the summer months, it is not only appropriate, but also necessary for our priests to preach to the faithful about the spiritual dangers that are so prevalent today in the areas of modesty and chastity. This pastoral letter is intended to assist the priests in their moral responsibility to instruct their parishioners.

The principles of the virtues of modesty and chastity are based, first and foremost, on the Sixth and Ninth Commandments of God:

“Thou shalt not commit adultery.”  
(Exodus 20:14)

and

“Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife.”  
(Exodus 20:14)

Furthermore, we read in the Gospel of St. Matthew how our Divine Savior Jesus Christ reiterated the Ninth Commandment when He said:

“You have heard that it was said to the ancients, ‘Thou shalt not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that anyone who even looks with lust at a woman has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (Matt. 5:27-28)

When we consider these matters, we are also reminded of some of the warnings of the Blessed Virgin at Fatima, Portugal, in 1917.

“Certain fashions will be introduced that will offend Our Lord very much... More souls go to hell because of sins of the flesh than for any other reason.”

Nearly 97 years have passed since the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima and how prophetic has her message been! With modern technology — the television, the movies and videos, and now computers — our young people are daily exposed to pornography and immorality which destroy their moral fiber. The widespread effects of this moral destruction are so obvious — teenage promiscuity and pregnancy, abortion, the open promotion of artificial contraceptives and the rise of violent crimes against women.

How tragic to see so many young people live as if there were no God, no Commandments, no such thing as mortal sin, no such thing as death, judgment, and eternity. As tragic as this is, it is even more tragic to see Catholic girls and women fall victims to the allurements of the immodest styles and fashions, and by doing so, become the cause and occasion of sin for so many others.

Pope Pius XII lamented this sad and tragic spectacle on many an occasion. In 1954, the Pope sadly related:

“How many young girls there are who see nothing wrong in following certain shameless styles like so many sheep. They would certainly blush with shame of they could know the impression they make, and the feelings they evoke, in those who see them.”

On another occasion, Pope Pius XII addressed the Catholic Young Women’s Groups of Italy:

“The good of our soul is more important than that of our body: and we have to prefer the spiritual welfare of our neighbor to our bodily comforts...”

If a certain kind of dress constitutes a grave and proximate occasion of sin, and endangers the salvation of your soul and others, it is your duty to give it up...

O Christian mothers, if you knew what a future of anxieties and perils, of ill-guarded shame you prepare for your sons and daughters, imprudently getting them accustomed to live scantily dressed and making them lose the sense of modesty, you would be ashamed of yourselves and you would dread the harm you are making for yourselves, the harm which you are causing these children, whom Heaven has entrusted to you to be brought up as Christians.”

All these considerations are fine and good, but they will remain meaningless if there are not some practical guidelines as to what exactly constitutes immodest dress for women and girls. Based on various excerpts from moral theology, the following general guidelines should not be too difficult for our Catholic women and girls to understand:

Immodest dress pertains to:

- 1) Dresses or blouses with low cut neck lines;
- 2) Skirts or shorts which expose the upper portions of the legs;
- 3) Clothing which is sheer;
- 4) Excessively tight-fitting dresses or slacks.

Here it may be asked about those particular occasions which seem to call for exceptions. What about extremely hot weather, or sports, or swimming?

A woman will have to use common sense in these various cases and take some extra precautions, realizing she has a serious responsibility in this regard. In hot weather a woman can wear a dress or culottes that are loose, light, and cool and yet still modest, depending upon the activity. For swimming she can wear some type of pull-over or cover up garment except for the times she is actually swimming. Choice of a swimming suit for women today is extremely important. Most women’s bathing suits are grossly immodest. A woman may have to make or provide her own contributions that will be modest, but if that is what it takes to be modest she should do so.

For our Catholic women and girls, let them seriously reflect on their manner of dress and their moral obligation to refrain from any “styles and fashions which gravely offend our Divine Lord.” When we consider that the greatest of evils to befall anyone is the eternal loss of one’s soul to hell, how we should dread to be the cause or the occasion of sin for anyone!

# *Father Connell Answers Moral Questions*

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

---

## **Preparing for the Worst**

---

**Question:** In case a city in our country were suddenly attacked by an enemy air force—particularly if they used atomic bombs—what exceptions from the general rules of the Ritual would be permitted in order to provide the faithful with the sacraments as quickly as possible?

**Answer:** If such a dire event as our questioner visualizes were to take place, undoubtedly all the inhabitants of the city would be regarded as being in danger of death. Consequently, any priest, even though he has no faculties for confessions in the place, could impart sacramental absolution to those who sought it. He could absolve from all sins and censures; though the penitent would be obliged to have recourse subsequently (if he survived) to the proper authority for the mandate, in the event that he had a censure *ab homine*, or one most specially reserved to the Holy See (Can. 882, 2252). Furthermore, if the circumstances did not permit confessions to be heard individually during the attack, a priest could impart absolution both to soldiers and to civilians in a general form, requiring only that the recipients manifest their contrition for sin and their desire to receive sacramental pardon (AAS, XXXVI [1944], 155). Of course, those absolved in this fashion would be bound to an integral confession of mortal sins on a future occasion if they survived.

The Holy Eucharist could be given as viaticum—hence, without the obligation of fasting—to all Catholics situated in grave danger because of the attack, even though they actually have not been injured. If no priest were available, lay persons could give the viaticum to themselves and to others, presuming that they could get to the tabernacle and procure the Blessed Sacrament. In order to provide the viaticum a priest could celebrate Mass even though he is not fasting or has already offered the Holy Sacrifice the same day. If necessary, he could dispense with vestments and even, it seems, with an altar stone (Cf. Cappello, *De Sacramentis* [Rome, 1938], I, n. 756). I do not think, however, that it would be lawful to abbreviate the Mass substantially (at least not the Canon) for the sake of greater celerity in administering the sacraments, although if a raid occurred after the consecration and there was danger that the church or altar would be destroyed, the priest could and should consume the sacred species immediately, omitting any prayers still to be said before the communion—as the Missal prescribes (*De Defectibus*, X, 2).

In the course of an air raid there would ordinarily be sufficient reason to administer the sacrament of Baptism with only the essential rite, and Extreme Unction in the abbreviated form allowed by the Church for cases of urgent necessity (Can. 947 § 1). For any who have been seriously wounded, and have not yet been confirmed, pastors could usually make legitimate use of their faculty to administer Confirmation. Finally, it should be noted (although the occasions for the use of this exception would rarely occur) that in danger of death a couple can be married without the presence of an authorized priest—if one cannot be obtained—merely by exchanging marital consent in the presence of two witnesses (Can. 1098 § 1).

---

*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:

**MATER DEI SEMINARY**  
7745 Military Avenue  
Omaha NE 68134-3356