



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,

At the end of August our seminarians were joined by our boarder boys to witness the rare occasion of the total eclipse of the sun. The Sunday before the eclipse, they traveled with Fr. Borja to attend his 3rd Sunday Mass at St. Mary's in Rockville, Nebraska. After Mass they stayed "out in the sticks" with one of our kind parishioners in Calloway, Nebraska where the path of the eclipse could be viewed at 100%. Fortunately, we received 100 special glasses from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and from the Omaha public library so all could safely view this phenomenon.

As wonderful an event as it was, it was just a reminder of the wonderful world our good God has created. We are surrounded by many natural occurrences that we take for granted, and yet we often forget that this amazing world of ours is very fine tuned. The size of our sun and its distance from earth; our moon and its rotation, the tilt of our earth at approximately 23% degrees are just a few of the many factors which converge to make our planet earth a hospitable planet to sustain complex life. All these factors are so many fingerprints of an All-Wise and All-Powerful, Intelligent Designer, God.

When we behold the harmony, order, and purpose throughout this vast world of ours, it should uplift our hearts, minds, and souls to our Creator. St. Francis of Assisi naturally turned to God in prayer when he beheld all the beauties of nature.

We congratulate Brother Aloysius Hartman, CMRI (Arizona) who took his first vows as a religious and Brother Louis Marie, CMRI (Christopher Peck, Indiana) who was received as a novice on August 5, feast of Our Lady of the Snow. We also include in this congratulation Denis McGuire (Connecticut) on his reception of Clerical Tonsure on August 16, which happened to be our first day of school for Mater Dei Academy. It is always an inspiration for our students to see our seminarians advance toward the priesthood and hopefully it plants the seeds for future vocations.

On September 8, the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mater Dei Seminary will begin its 28th year of classes. This year we will have 12 seminarians and, God willing, 10 more new priests within the next three years.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God intercede for our seminarians that they may become priests truly in the pattern of her Divine Son Jesus Christ.

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



Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

by Pope Leo XIII, September 25, 1888

O glorious Archangel St. Michael, Prince of the heavenly host, be our defense in the terrible warfare which we carry on against Principalities and Powers, against the rulers of this world of darkness, spirits of evil. Come to the aid of man, whom God created immortal, made in his own image and likeness, and redeemed at a great price from the tyranny of the devil. Fight this day the battle of the Lord, together with the holy angels, as already thou hast fought the leader of the proud angels, Lucifer, and his apostate host, who were powerless to resist thee, nor was there place for them any longer in Heaven. That cruel, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil or Satan, who seduces the whole world, was cast into the abyss with his angels. Behold, this primeval enemy and slayer of men has taken courage. Transformed into an angel of light, he wanders about with all the multitude of wicked spirits, invading the earth in order to blot out the name of God and of his Christ, to seize upon, slay and cast into eternal perdition souls destined for the crown of eternal glory. This wicked dragon pours out, as a most impure flood, the venom of his malice on men of depraved mind and corrupt heart, the spirit of lying, of impiety, of blasphemy, and the pestilent breath of impurity, and of every vice and iniquity. These most crafty enemies have filled and inebriated with gall and bitterness the Church, the spouse of the immaculate Lamb, and have laid impious hands on her most sacred possessions. In the holy place itself, where has been set up the see of the most holy Peter and the chair of truth for the light of the world, they have raised the throne of their abominable impiety, with the iniquitous design that when the pastor has been struck, the sheep may be scattered. Arise then, O invincible Prince, bring help against the attacks of the lost spirits to the people of God, and give them the victory. They venerate thee as their protector and patron; in thee holy Church glories as her defense against the malicious power of hell; to thee has God entrusted the souls of men to be established in heavenly beatitude. O pray to the God of peace that He may put Satan under our feet, so far conquered that he may no longer be able to hold men in captivity and harm the Church. Offer our prayers in the sight of the Most High, so that they may quickly conciliate the mercies of the Lord; and beating down the dragon,



the ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, do thou again make him captive in the abyss, that he may no longer seduce the nations. Amen.

V. Behold the Cross of the Lord; be scattered ye hostile powers.

R. The Lion of the tribe of Juda has conquered, the root of David.

V. Let Thy mercies be upon us, O Lord.

R. As we have hope in Thee.

V. O Lord, hear my prayer.

R. And let my cry come unto Thee.

Let us pray.

O God, the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we call upon Thy holy name, and as suppliants we implore Thy clemency, that by the intercession of Mary, ever Virgin Immaculate and our Mother, and of the glorious Archangel St. Michael, Thou wouldst deign to help us against Satan and all other unclean spirits, who wander about the world for the injury of the human race and the ruin of souls. Amen.



Rosary Procession in honor of Our Lady of Fatima on August 22



Denis McGuire receives First Clerical Tonsure



Brother Aloysius, CMRI takes his first year vows



Christopher Peck is received as a novice. His new name is Brother Louis Marie, CMRI

Outlines of Moral Theology

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

INJUSTICE IN REFERENCE TO INTERMEDIATE GOODS

Reputation, or good name, is the common esteem of a person's excellence; honor is the external acknowledgment of this excellence. Everyone has a right to reputation as long as he has done no public evil. This is true even of the man who is privately leading a wicked life, for if it were permitted to divulge a person's private vices, society would suffer much, the good relatives of the person would be disgraced, etc. However, on the principle of the double effect, a person's private vices may be revealed for the sake of the common good. For example, the fact that a young man is leading an immoral life secretly can be revealed to a good girl who is planning to marry him. Similarly, if a person knows that a candidate for Holy Orders is unworthy because of some secret sins, he should reveal the matter to ecclesiastical authorities, since the common good of the Church is at stake.

A rash judgment—that is, a *certain* judgment that a person is guilty of some wrong, based on insufficient grounds, is a sin against justice. However, a grave sin is not committed if there is good circumstantial evidence to support the judgment, or if it is a mere suspicion of the person's guilt.

Detraction is the injuring of the reputation of one who is absent. If what is said is true (that is, the revelation of secret sins), the sin is simple detraction; if it is false, the sin is calumny. Both are violations of justice. The gravity of the sin is measured, not by the gravity of the crime narrated, but by the injury that is done to the person's good name.

It is not injustice to manifest a person's crimes if they are now public—that is, when many know them, and it is impossible for them to be hidden much longer, even though the individual who is now hearing of them was previously unaware of them. It would seem that it is not against justice to tell the recent evil deeds of a man in one place, if they were committed and are publicly known in another place. But when a person's evil deeds have been forgotten and he is now leading a good life, it would seem to be against justice to bring them up now. Sometimes, although it may not be against justice to reveal something, it is against charity, e.g., when a person who was convicted of a crime years ago has recovered his good standing in the community.

One who listens to detraction or calumny and does not encourage it does not fail against justice, unless he has the obligation to officially correct the detractor (e.g., a pastor or religious superior). Often it is better not to make any explicit protest against detraction (e.g., gossip) but rather to try to change the conversation. One who encourages detraction is a co-operator in the sin.

Contumely is the act of taking away from a person the honor he deserves. It can be a grave sin, when it is very insulting. It is committed in the presence of the person, at least in the sense that his image is present, as when the college president is hanged in effigy by the students. Its gravity is measured by the dignity of the person dishonored and the authority of the one who commits it. Thus, if the Pope is dishonored it is worse than if it is a simple priest; an act of insult proceeding from a person in high office is worse than one committed by a person of low rank. For this reason the insults passed back and forth by the patrons of a barroom are generally not grave sins, even though they may be very opprobrious.

There is an obligation of repairing calumny and detraction, grave or light in accordance with the measure of harm that has been done. In the case of calumny, the guilty person does not have to admit that he told a lie, if he can repair the harm by saying that since the truth was told a person may not deny it, but he can attempt to make up by bringing out the good qualities of the one injured. When a person has been guilty of calumny or detraction in the public press, he should use this same means to make reparation. If it took place by word of mouth, and the guilty person has reason to believe that those to whom he spoke have repeated the story to others, he should ask them to pass along the reparation also.

At times the obligation of repairing the detraction or calumny ceases—namely, when there is good reason to believe that the matter is now generally forgotten, and it might do more harm to bring the subject up again, or when it is very likely that the hearers regarded the story as groundless gossip and consequently no great harm was done.

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
www.materdeiseminary.org