



# 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,

The past few issues of our newsletter have unfortunately been sent later in the month due to our difficult schedule. Although the seminary classes and the school classes have been completed in early May, there has not been a reprieve from the many pressing responsibilities for our priests and myself. It is for this reason that this newsletter will be shortened in order to have it mailed in a timely manner.

The summer months provide me with the extra time to make my annual pastoral visitations to our various churches and chapels around the country and in other countries. During the scholastic year, I limit my travels for Confirmations and Ordinations to once a month.

Over the past three weeks, I have visited Minnesota, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska. Next on the list are Colorado, Massachusetts, and Maine; then Mexico and Germany.



*Feast of Corpus Christi*



How beautiful it is to witness the Catholicity of the Church! How different people are throughout our country and in other countries. Yet when it comes to the Faith, how wonderfully they are united in the Mystical Body of Christ.

This summer many children and young adults will have received the Sacrament of Confirmation and become soldiers of Christ. The importance of the Sacrament of Confirmation for our young people in these times cannot be underestimated. We are all so well aware that Satan has left no stone unturned in his pursuit to lead souls away from God and how many snares he has laid for our young people. For this reason I gladly travel extensively to administer this important Sacrament. Some groups are very large and some groups are very small. But every soldier of Christ added to the ranks of the Church Militant is critical in the spiritual battle of today.

In between these travels, there will be our July priests' meeting in Omaha, which is so critical in maintaining a strong unity amongst the clergy. We will also have the dedication of the churches in Colorado with priests from around the country in attendance. I believe one of the saints exhorted his friends to work hard now, for we will have all eternity to rest; I thank God for our dedicated priests and religious who burn the candle at both ends for God's greater honor and glory and the salvation of souls.

With my prayers and blessing,

Most Rev. Mark A. Pivarunas, CMRI

# *Father Connell Answers Moral Questions*

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

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## *Non-Catholic Funerals in Church*

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**Question:** Since it is permitted under certain circumstances to celebrate mixed marriages in church, may we argue by analogy that in certain circumstances the funeral services of non-Catholics may be conducted in church, at the side altars—for example, the funerals of non-Catholics married to Catholics?

**Answer:** The analogy would seem to be pushed too far by the questioner. The Code of Canon Law explicitly allows mixed marriages in church, if the Ordinary judges that it is called for in order that graver evils may be avoided (Can. 1109, Sec. 3). But no such exception is made for the

funeral services of a non-Catholic, even though this person may have been married to a Catholic. On the contrary, Church law explicitly forbids the privilege of ecclesiastical burial rites to those who were known to have been members of an heretical sect (Can. 1240, Sec. 1,1°).

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## *Insurance of Religious Property*

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**Question:** Would a religious Order be following the better course if it did not take out fire insurance on its property, on the ground that it indicates more trust in God to leave the property uninsured, and that the money thus saved could be used for such good purposes as the promotion of the foreign missions, assistance to the poor, etc.?

**Answer:** The insurance of buildings against damage, especially against the havoc caused by fire, is a prudent means of protecting individuals and groups from the heavy financial loss they would otherwise suffer if the property were suddenly destroyed. Insurance of this kind has become a normal feature of modern life, especially in view of the high cost of building at the present day. When a person insures a building, he does not manifest any lack of trust in the Almighty, for God has not promised that He will protect any particular piece of property from the damage that would come to it naturally from the operation of created causes. On the contrary, it is sensible and prudent to insure valuable property, just as it is sensible and prudent to install fire-escapes, lightning-rods, etc.

As far as the right of a religious Order to keep its property uninsured is concerned, it would seem that there is no

obligation to insure their buildings as long as the members are prepared to accept any losses that may ensue, without being compelled to seek substantial aid from other persons. But if the financial situation of the Order is such that a considerable amount of money would have to be raised by contributions from the faithful to make up for extensive property damage, not covered by insurance, there would seem to be an obligation on the members of the Order, in charity and in prudence, to avert such a heavy financial burden from their generous friends by insuring the buildings in question. This would apply primarily to fire-insurance, for there seems to be no obligation to insure property against more remote dangers, such as floods and hurricanes, unless local conditions render the occurrence of such catastrophes exceptionally probable.

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