



Adsum

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

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

During the month of June, bad weather has visited Omaha more often than I can remember. Sirens for tornado warnings have sounded on a number of occasions—on one particular evening, three times. One of the worst storms brought a wind sheer (horizontal winds) which peaked at 115 mph. Fortunately, our properties were not damaged except for some large limbs which came down from our grand old maple tree (5 feet in diameter at the trunk). This will provide fire wood for our wood stoves for the coming winter. Unfortunately, this storm, accompanied by hail, did extensive damage to the farmers' crops west of Omaha. Furthermore, it snapped power poles which left thousands of homes without power for as long as a week.



Brother Xavier cuts up large limbs that have fallen on the Seminary property after a major storm.

Another highlight this past month was the dedication of Mary, Help of Christians Church in Fountain, Colorado. Present for the occasion were priests from around the country to assist at the church blessing and the Pontifical High Mass. The ceremony of the blessing of a church begins outside the front door of the church. After an opening oration, an antiphon and psalm are chanted while the Bishop sprinkles the foundation and the upper part of the walls of the church around the entire edifice with holy water. Then the Litany of the Saints is chanted as the clergy and the faithful process into the church where the altar is completely unadorned. During the Litany, the Bishop chants the petition that God would vouchsafe to bless the church. Following another oration, three psalms are chanted while the interior walls are blessed around the entire church. After the blessing of the church, the clergy vests for the Pontifical Mass and the altar is adorned with the altar cloths, candles, and flowers.

What is very encouraging with this group of traditional



The Blessing of Mary, Help of Christians Church

Catholics is the young families with many children (the future of the Church). Our next goal for the area will be to start a school in order to provide a Catholic education for these young souls. The scheduled date is tentatively for the Fall of 2009.

Our Religious Sisters are now preparing for the 13th Annual Girls' Summer Camp in Omaha. There are over 70 girls registered to attend. These camps have been a wonderful opportunity for traditional Catholic girls to meet and to make friends with other traditional Catholics from around the country.

After the Girls' Summer Camp, the following week will be our bi-annual priests' meeting. It is always good for all the priests, both religious and secular, to work out schedules for the rest of the year, and to discuss issues in theology and Canon Law.

May all of you have a safe summer!

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.

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* [Rove, 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, Sec. 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, Sec. 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