

August, 2008

# *Adsum*

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



**Pontifical High Mass following the Blessing of  
Our Lady of the Snow Church in Denver, Colorado**



## LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

At the beginning of August, ten of our priests assisted at the blessing of Our Lady of the Snow Church in Denver, Colorado. Although there is further construction needed to complete this beautiful church (such as Gothic arches over the main altar and the future side altars), the wood crafted altar, the tiled sanctuary, and the beautiful wood floor provide a wonderful splendor to the House of God where Our Lord dwells in the tabernacle.

We commend the faithful of Our Lady of the Snow Church for the many long hours they spent to renovate the church. Besides the church, there is a large kitchen and cafeteria for receptions. The cafeteria also has a stage for school programs in the future. The facility also has several large classrooms as well as accommodations for our priests.

Another unique aspect of Our Lady of the Snow Church is its magnificent choir which sang for the Pontifical High Mass. Fr. Casimir Puskorius, CMRI, who is an accomplished pianist and choir director, commented on the excellent singing of the musical arrangement of the Mass of Our Lady of the Franciscan Order with its multiple parts.

Our Blessed Mother had pity on us on the day of the dedication (August 5) with a relief from the near record heat wave that hovered around the Denver area. Cooler air arrived providentially on the day of the dedication to provide a moderate temperature both inside and outside the church.

The title of Our Lady of the Snow is one that may not be familiar to our readers; however, this feast is very well known in Rome and dates back nearly 1700 years.



Tradition holds that the Blessed Virgin appeared to Pope Liberius and the patrician Giovanni Patrizio on August 4, 352, instructing them to build a church on the Esquiline Hill. That night, the floor plan was outlined by a miraculous snow-fall. The patrician and his wife, who had pledged their fortune to the Virgin Mary, endowed the church during the pontificate of Liberius (352-366). The Liberian Basilica was rebuilt by Pope Sixtus III shortly after the Council of Ephesus affirmed Mary's title as Mother of God in 431. Rededicated at that time to the Mother of God, St. Mary Major is the largest church in the world honoring God through Mary. The feast of its dedication was extended to the universal Church by Pope St. Pius V.

In less than two weeks, our school, Mater Dei Academy, will once again begin classes. This year we will have approximately thirty boarding students. Then at the end of August, Fr. Casimir and I will visit Germany where the Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered. It will also be an opportunity for us to visit Fr. Rissling and Fr. Heyne. Upon our return, I will have a week to make the immediate preparations for the start of our seminary year.

There are two beautiful feasts of Our Lady during the month of August. The first is her Assumption into Heaven, which was proclaimed by Pope Pius XII to be a dogma of our Catholic Faith. The second is the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Whenever we celebrate feasts of Our Blessed Mother we are reminded of our spiritual Mother in Heaven who lovingly provides for her children. In these difficult times, let us raise our eyes to our heavenly Mother and beg her Immaculate Heart to intercede for us that we might always be faithful to her Divine Son and be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

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

## Our New Addition - Isabella

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With the rising cost of food and the increased number of seminarians and high school boarders this year, we decided that two cows are better than one. So we began to investigate the acquisition of another cow. Our newest addition, Isabella, arrived in July from a dairy half an hour away from St. Theresa's Church in O'Neill, Nebraska.

Although there is a vast difference between our first cow, the big Isadora (Angus/Jersey mix) and the medium size Isabella (100% Jersey), they have been best of friends. Perhaps this was part of the problem with Isadora's escape last year--she didn't want to be by herself. Isabella has been producing over two gallons a day, and should continue to milk for the next eight months. As we have mentioned in the past, Isadora will calf at the end of this month and will milk for many months to come.

If Isadora's calf is a heifer (female cow), we will raise her and keep her as a future dairy cow. If the calf is a bull, we will raise him for dinner ("beef--it's what's for dinner"). The only problem is to remind everyone that if the calf is a bull, he is not our pet; otherwise, some may be reluctant to eat him!

Whatever kind of calf Isadora has, we hope it comes without a lot of complications. We are not veterinarians, but we have talked to enough dairy farmers to know the basics.



***Isabella and Isadora  
enjoy the shade on a hot summer day.***



## Fish for Fridays

The religious brothers have spent most of the summer in construction around the church and seminary. In the evening time, they managed to get out to DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge for some recreation by way of bow-fishing. With a special fiber-glass arrow tipped with a harpoon head and a heavy string and reel, fish can be shot with a bow and reeled into shore.

One of our religious seminarians, Caleb Short, from Colorado shot this 19 pound fish one evening. Our freezer has slowly but surely become well-stocked with fish.

Although this type of fishing is not common, it sure beats soaking worms on a hook or casting lures with a hope that a hungry fish will bite. With this type of fishing, we go to the fish and get them whether they are hungry or not. It is amazing how many fish can be shot in a short amount of time.

This is a great form of recreation after a long day's work and it reminds us that the Apostles were fishermen before Our Lord called them to be fishers of men.



# 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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## Missing Sunday Mass for Vacation

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**Question:** What is to be said about Catholics who miss Mass on Sunday because they have gone into the lake region or the woods for the purpose of hunting, fishing, etc., over the weekend?

**Answer:** It is a deplorable fact that in recent years the sin of missing Mass on Sunday has become more common among Catholics in the United States. Priests should recognize the danger to the faith inevitably connected with this custom, and strive to avert it by impressing our people with the importance of Sunday Mass in Catholic life. It is true, there can be legitimate reasons excusing a Catholic from the obligation of attending Mass on Sunday; but these reasons should not be inordinately extended. The motive of recreation is an example of a reason that may be stretched too far. It is held by reliable theologians that if a person can obtain needed recreation only in a section of the country where there is no church or only in circumstances in which he cannot hear Mass, he can be justified in taking his recreation in this place or in these circumstances and thereby missing Mass *once or twice*, or at most *a few times a year*.<sup>1</sup> However, Catholics should be told that this concession may not be used except when

there is considerable difficulty in getting to Mass from the place of recreation, and that it may be used only rarely (*once or twice* a year, according to Fanfani; *a few times* according to Konings). In these days of automobiles and motorboats, Catholics can generally get to Mass even from remote parts of the woods and the lake regions. Certainly, a person would not be excused from attending Mass merely because the journey to church would take an hour by car.<sup>2</sup> And a Catholic can make use of recreation as an excusing cause only when he cannot find the needed recreation in a place where he can get to Mass on Sundays.

1. Cf. L. Fanfani, *op. cit.*, III, n. 79; A. Konings, *Theologia Moralis S. Alphonsi in compendium redacta* (Boston, 1874), n. 408.

2. Cf. John J. Guiniven, C.S.S.R., *The Precept of Hearing Mass* (Washington: The Catholic University of America Press, 1942), p. 143.

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## Work on a Holyday in a Catholic Institution

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**Question:** When workmen are employed in a Catholic institution, such as a seminary, a monastery, a hospital, etc., should they be required to work on holydays of obligation?

**Answer:** Those whose regular work requires daily service, such as cooks, firemen, waiters, etc., can naturally be required to work on holydays of obligation, as they are on Sundays. Furthermore, when some construction or repair work is being done on the grounds by an outside firm it would be permissible for the superiors of the Catholic institution to allow the contractor to continue to work on

holydays if otherwise some grave inconvenience would follow, such as loss of pay by the workers. But when the workmen are employed directly by the institution, as farm hands, carpenters, etc., and their work can be suspended for the holyday without grave inconvenience, I believe the administrators of the institution should declare it a holiday with pay.

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