

# **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 clergy and seminarians of Mater Dei Seminary wish all of you a most joyful and grace-filled feast of Our Lord's Resurrection!

This issue of the newsletter will feature not only photographs of Holy Week but also a number of ceremonies during the season of Lent.

We are happy to announce the upcoming ordinations to First Tonsure and minor orders on May 9th, and the subdiaconate and priesthood on May 11th. Please pray for our seminarians that they may make a holy preparation for these steps to the priesthood. There will be five priests ordained, and, on the following days, they will celebrate their first solemn Masses.

We congratulate our four new CMRI novice brothers: Bro. Simon Marie (Gabriel Davis, IA), Bro. John Marie (Jesse Sand, MN), Bro. Anthony Marie (Thaddeus Kuck, NE), and Bro. Mary Jude (Kirk Thompson, CA), who received the habit at the end of March.

This month of April is dedicated to the Blessed

Sacrament. Let us never cease to thank Jesus Christ for this wonderful Sacrament of His love. How wonderfully God inspired the holy prophets to foretell this divine institution. King David prophesied in Psalm 109 that the Messiah would be "a priest according to the order of Melchisedech." In the Old Testament, Melchisedech was both a king and a priest who offered bread

and wine in sacrifice. The prophet Malachias foretold of the "continual sacrifice" offered in every place from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same. This could not have pertained to any of the sacrifices of the Old Testament; it has been fulfilled in the New Testament with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. In the New Testament, we read in the Gospel of St. John, chapter 6, that Our Divine Savior explicitly promised to give His flesh and blood for food and drink. Let us always treasure the Holy Eucharist by the fervent attendance at Holy



Mass, the devout reception of Holy Communion, and the frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament. From the tabernacle Jesus beckons us: "Come ye all that are burdened and I will refresh you!"

With my prayers and blessing,

Most Rev. Mark A. Pivarunas, CMRI





*Chanting of Tenebrae on Wednesday of Holy Week*



*Chanting of the Passion on Wednesday of Holy Week*



*Blessing of Holy Oils on Holy Thursday morning*





*Reception of CMRI novice brothers with the assistance of Fr. Bernard Welp, CMRI and Fr. Augustine Walz, CMRI*



*Sr. Therese Marie, CMD (Colette Crochet, Arkansas) is received as a novice sister in the Congregation of the Mother of God*



*Dedication of St. Philomena's Church, Huntsville, AL*



*Mater Dei Academy 2023 State Archery Champions*

# *More Answers to Today's Moral Problems*

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

---

## FALSEHOODS BY ONE IN AUTHORITY

---

**Question:** What answer can be given by a man in public office, such as a senator, a governor, etc., to a question centering about some confidential matter, when any reply except a definite falsehood will probably result in at least a partial revelation of the secret?

**Answer:** The problem presented by our questioner in respect to a person in public life can occur also in the case of many others in posts of authority, such as the lawyer, the doctor, an ecclesiastical or religious superior, etc. Such a person often possesses information which he may not divulge. What answer should he give when he is questioned about the matter? Some theologians would answer that the only lawful ways in which the secret can be protected are silence or the use of a mental restriction. By a mental restriction is meant a statement that can be understood in the correct sense, though in the present circumstances it will probably be understood in some other sense. But it must be admitted that there are occasions when even the most clever mental restriction will be inadequate to prevent the revelation of the secret. The view of another school of theologians offers assistance in a case of this kind. They hold that when a person possesses a very important secret and someone is trying unjustly to discover it, this person is permitted to tell a direct falsehood as a means of protection. In such an event, they say, the falsehood is not to be classified as a lie, since the essential malice of a lie is the harm it does to society, and in the particular circumstances described, society is aided rather than harmed by a falsehood. I believe that the opinion of these latter theologians is sufficiently probable to be used in practice. Of course, only a very prudent and restricted use of this opinion is permissible.

---

## THE CONSCIENTIOUS BALLPLAYER

---

**Question:** I was asked this question by a professional ballplayer: He attempted to tag a base-runner trying to steal a base. The umpire called the runner out, although the player credited with the out was sure that he had not tagged the runner. Should he have informed the umpire that he had not actually succeeded in making the play, so that actually the runner was safe?

**Answer:** It is the accepted rule in baseball (and presumably in other sports) that any protests against the decisions of the umpire are to be made by the manager or the players of the team that has received the unfavorable decision. A player whose team was favored by a decision need not make any protest, even though he is sure that the decision was erroneous—at least as long as he employed no unlawful deception to bring about this decision. Hence, in the case proposed the player who was credited with an out through an error on the part of the umpire may accept the decision with a clear conscience. It is for the other team to make a protest, if they wish.

---

*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](http://www.materdeiseminary.org)