



Adsum

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

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

This issue of our newsletter begins with the sad news that one of the priests from the Priestly Society of Trent under Bishop Martin Davila passed away from cancer. He suffered patiently for three years and I am grateful to have had the opportunity of visiting him during my trip to Guadalajara, Mexico, for Bishop Davila's 25th Episcopal Anniversary. Please remember him in your prayers.

This summer has been unusually stormy with a number of tornadoes touching down around eastern Nebraska and western Iowa. Thank God our church, seminary and convent did not suffer any major

damage. Nevertheless, parts of western Omaha and small towns near our seminary and convent were severely damaged or destroyed. God allows these natural disasters to keep us detached from this world and to turn our eyes to heaven as our true home.

At our annual priests' meeting this July, 21 secular priests gathered to review matters in dogmatic and moral theology as well as Canon Law and the liturgy. The most important aspect of our meetings is to maintain unity among all of our priests and to coordinate our activities to further the mission of the Church in the salvation of souls. Pope Pius XII in his address to clerics in Rome taught that the whole purpose of Canon Law is the salvation of souls!

With my prayers and blessing,

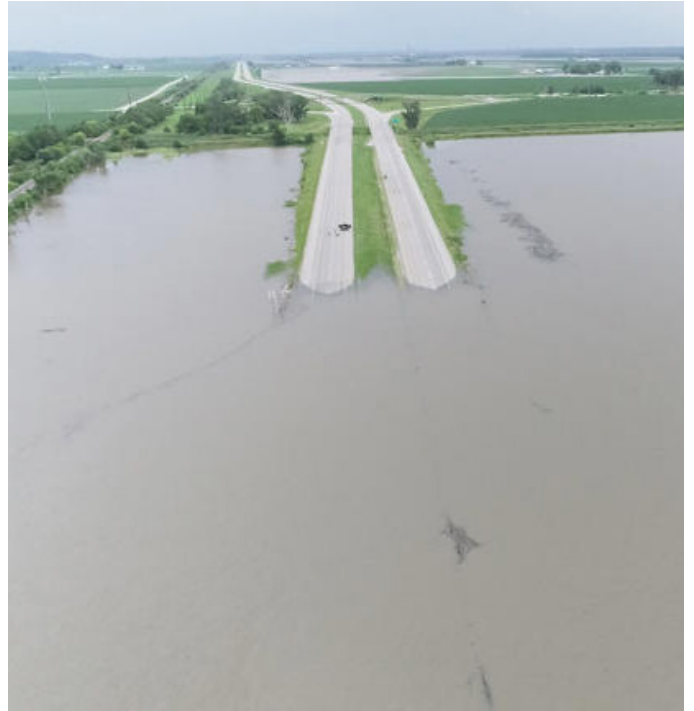
Most Rev. Mark A. Pivarunas, CMRI



Our annual July priests' meetings with our secular priests



High winds this early summer brought down trees around the church property; fortunately, no tornadoes hit the church, seminary or convent.



Torrential rains brought massive flooding to our area and, as a result, two interstates between the church and our seminary and convent were closed, making travel much more difficult.



The flooding of seminary property has occurred multiple times throughout this summer. Pictured above is the flash flood that flowed through our front property. Thankfully, the seminary is built on higher ground with proper grading, sloping away from the building.

Requiem Aeternam... Padre Eduardo Zuniga Gomez

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr. Eduardo Zuniga Gomez from Mexico, who died at the age of 39. He was a traditional priest of the Priestly Society of Trent under Bishop Martin Davila. On the occasion of my trip to Bishop Davila's 25th Anniversary of Episcopal Consecration in Guadalajara, I visited the ailing priest in the hospital. He had been ill for more than three years with a blood cancer, suffering intensely but with a holy resignation.



The late Fr. Eduardo offering Holy Mass



The Trento priests recite the Office of the Dead



Bishop Davila offers the Solemn Requiem Mass



Fr. Eduardo's fellow priests carry him to his final resting place

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.

VITAMIN PILLS AND THE EUCHARISTIC FAST

Question: Can vitamin pills be considered medicine, and hence be taken at any time before Communion, or are they a form of food which is permitted only up to three hours previously? Would it make any difference whether they are taken because of a doctor's prescription or by one's own choice?

Answer: Some persons who are perfectly healthy take vitamin pills in order to maintain their health; others take them as a remedy against some form of ailment. In the case of the former group, I believe that vitamin pills are to be considered as food, and hence may not be taken within the three hours before Communion. Such persons cannot be classified as sick people, for whom the concession is granted. Those who use them as a remedy against some ailment may regard them as medicine. This would seem to be the judgment of the average person (the *aestimatio vulgaris*), which the Church values so highly in deciding questions of this sort. As far as the eucharistic fast is concerned, I do not think it makes any difference whether they are used as a remedy with a doctor's prescription or by one's own decision. The *Motu Proprio* (papal letter) of 1957 made no statement to the effect that a doctor must prescribe the medicine permitted before Holy Communion.

However, this does not mean that even a person who takes vitamins as a medicine is always permitted to take them up to the time of Mass or Holy Communion. There must be some necessity for taking them within the period when solids are ordinarily forbidden. The Instruction of the Holy Office which accompanied the Constitution *Christus Dominus* in 1953 allowed medicine to the sick immediately before receiving Holy Communion only if "because of their illness they cannot, without grave inconvenience, observe the fast completely until the reception of Holy Communion." No such restriction was added in the *Motu Proprio* (papal letter) "*Sacram Communionem*" in 1957, but certainly there must be some inconvenience involved by not taking the vitamins shortly before receiving Holy Communion. Hence, if it makes no difference when one's pills are to be taken in the course of the day, I believe he should take them either after Mass or Holy Communion or more than three hours beforehand.

However, I would be lenient in deciding when a sufficient reason is present justifying the taking of the vitamin pills up to the time of receiving Communion. For example, if it is definitely beneficial to space the vitamins at certain definite times through the day, one may make use of the concession. Nor would one have to rise before his accustomed time to take the pills three hours previously.

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