



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

November 1999

During the past month the seminarians had the opportunity to host the guests of the Fatima Conference for a luncheon. It was nice to visit with so many of our supporters and to show them our seminary. We also hosted Dr. Walter Baisier of Antwerp, Belgium, who was attending a medical convention in Coeur d'Alene, where he was a featured speaker. Dr. Baisier proved to be a popular guest during his week-long stay, especially since he helped the seminarians with their Latin homework in the evenings!

November is the month of the Poor Souls. While we must pray for our brethren of the Church Suffering at all times, we particularly remember them during this month. Visits to a Catholic cemetery are particularly fitting at this time of year. At St. Joseph Seminary we are privileged to have a cemetery located within easy walking distance. Mount

Calvary Cemetery contains the mortal remains of some 50-60 Catholic faithful, who have been laid to rest there since the cemetery opened in 1972. We recall the words of St. John Marie Vianney, who called his cemetery his reliquary. A Catholic cemetery is indeed a reliquary, containing as it does the precious remains of devout Catholics. Our seminarians will make many trips to the cemetery during this month, particularly during the Octave of All Souls' Day, when a plenary indulgence can be gained for such a visit.

We also look forward to celebrating during this month the feast of the Presentation of Mary in the temple. This feast has special meaning for seminarians who reflect on the sacrifice of Our Lady, when she offered her life to God at the tender age of three years. Needless to say, we all anticipate Thanksgiving vacation at the end of the

month. Thanksgiving Day reminds us that we all have much for which to thank God.

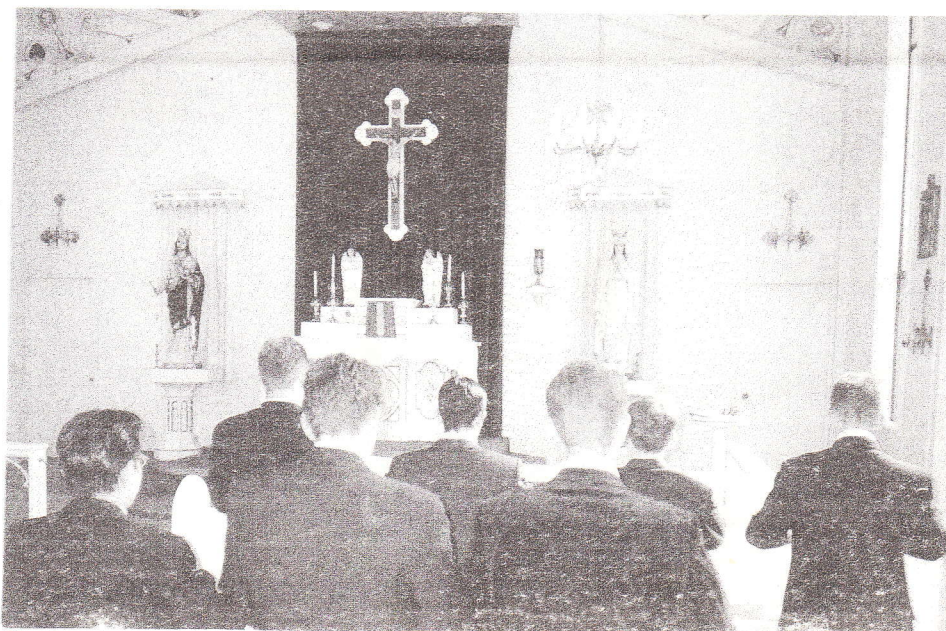
Prayer

by Philip Dunphy, gr. 9

Our prayer life at St. Joseph Seminary is an essential part of the daily routine, with Morning Prayers followed by Mass, Noon prayers before lunch, Rosary and, finally, Night Prayers. Besides being a means of obtaining grace, prayer also will give us a greater confidence in knowing our vocations.

An important part of our daily prayer life is the recitation of the Little Office of the Immaculate Conception, the parts of which are apportioned to various hours of the day. Morning prayers, beginning at 6:45 a.m., and the hours of Matins and Prime are usually followed by Mass at 7:00 a.m. (On Wednesday Mass is at 11:30 a.m.) At 11:50 we recite the hours of Tierce, Sext and None, followed by devotions to Christ the King and St. Joseph. Then at 5:35 p.m. we pray the Rosary and Vespers. Night prayers with Compline are prayed at 9:30 p.m.

During prayer we obtain grace and answers to our petitions, and we make conversation with God. One of the most important prayers for a seminarian is the petition to know his vocation. Our Lord said, "Ask, and it shall be given you, seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you" (Matthew, Chapter 7). Prayer is necessary for salvation. It also gives us grace for our daily needs and petitions.



Seminarians at prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Choir

by Kevin Cox, gr. 10

One of the many classes the seminary offers is choir. Choir is the pronunciation of God's praises and the annunciation of His glory. It consists of the voices of all the seminarians, with Mrs. Abernathy as our teacher. These voices first proclaimed God's glory by singing the Mass of the Angels on St. Michael's feastday. As the day approached, the seminarians were eagerly awaiting the chance to finally sing their first High Mass. When the day arrived, however, the choir members were filled with some anxiety. Actually, we did quite well for our first performance.



The St. Joseph Seminary Choir.

Soon another major feastday arrived (that of the Holy Rosary) and Father asked us to sing another High Mass. We accepted with full confidence that we could do as well or better than we did on the first one. In my opinion, we sang even better than our first Mass.

The next task was that of a program for the Fatima Conference. We were to perform in front of about seventy people. This was not at all like the Masses, because there we had the choir loft where no one could see us. Now we were right in front of everyone. But as it turned out we did quite well. The simple program contained three hymns: "Ecce Panis Angelorum," "Sing of Mary," and "Dona Nobis Pacem."

Choir is a popular class among the seminarians, as well as an important one. We still have a lot to learn, but we hope to continue to improve that we might contribute more to God's glory.

A Hike into God's Country

by Isaac Martin, gr. 9 and Charlie Rodriguez, gr. 9

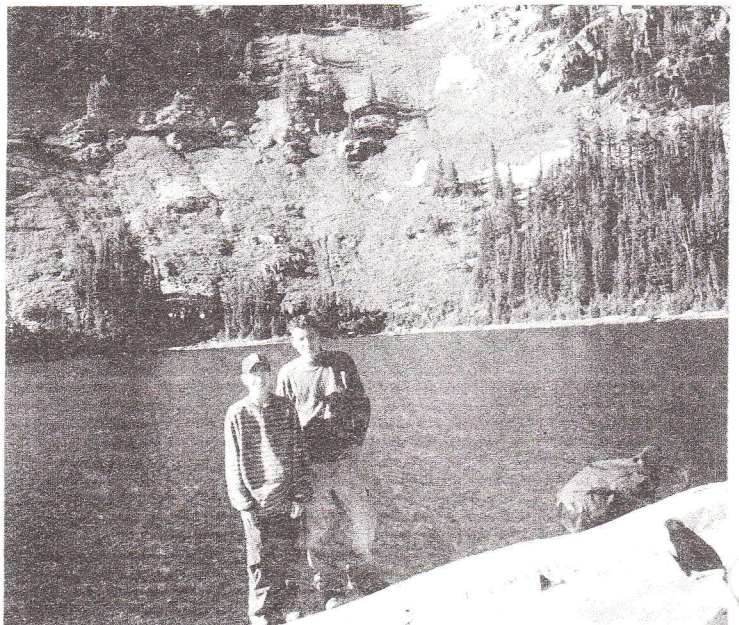
Mr. Strain, our P.E. teacher, announced to the seminarians one fine Sunday morning that he was going to hike to Lake Blossom in the Thompson Pass area along the Idaho-Montana border. The two of us accepted the invitation to join Mr. Strain for this outing.

At Noon we had our things packed and ready to go: camera, water, backpack, sweaters, etc. The long drive to the pass provided a fascinating view of Lake Coeur d'Alene. When we reached our destination, we found that it was all uphill from there. We began to ascend Thompson Pass at a moderate pace, stopping along the way a couple of times to take a breather. As we looked around, we beheld the mountain peaks along the Montana border, and were fascinated by the beauty of God's creation. We couldn't help but take a few snapshots of this awe-inspiring scenery. Too much attention to

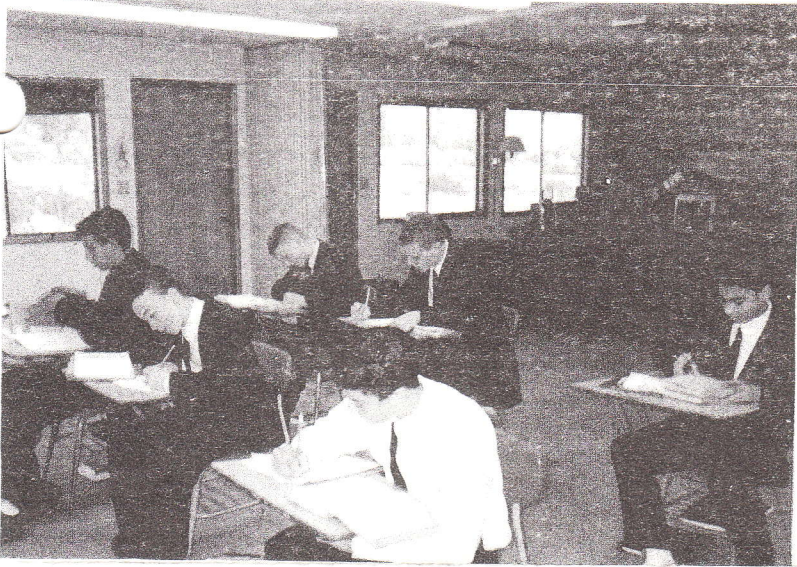
the scenery, however, caused us to stumble and trip over well hidden rocks and roots! So we resumed our hike with much more caution.

When we finally reached our destination, we were struck by the splendor of a beautiful lake. Lying down on the grass to rest, we felt such a peace that we couldn't utter a single word for a few minutes. Gradually, we began to converse. After an enjoyable conversation in such a peaceful setting, we couldn't resist the temptation to skip a few rocks along the surface of the placid lake.

Eventually, it was time to head home. We really didn't want to leave, but the sun was getting lower in the sky, and we needed to head back. We took some more pictures and then headed back to the car. We will always treasure the memory of our visit to "God's Country," for that was what it seemed to us.



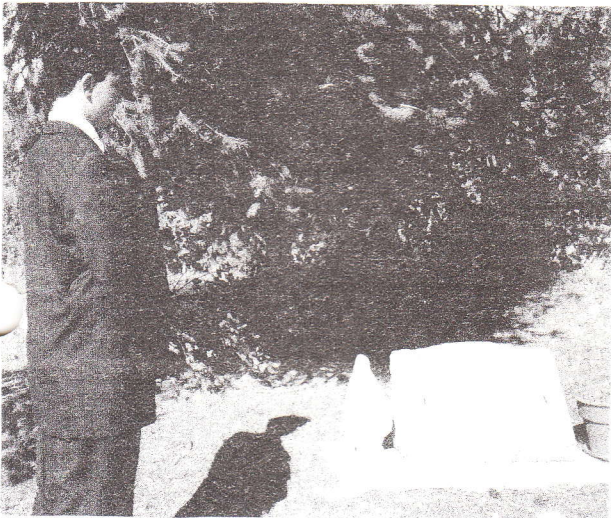
Isaac and Charlie take a short rest during their hike.



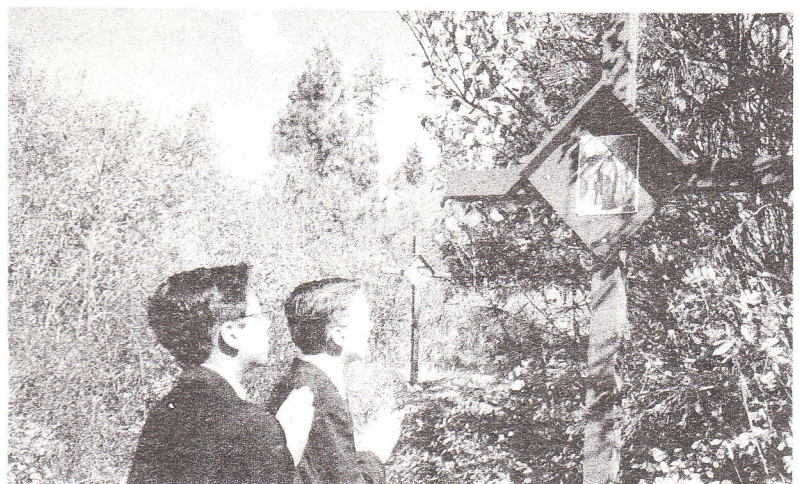
Seminarians hard at work in the classroom.



Kevin picks pears in the orchard at the seminary.



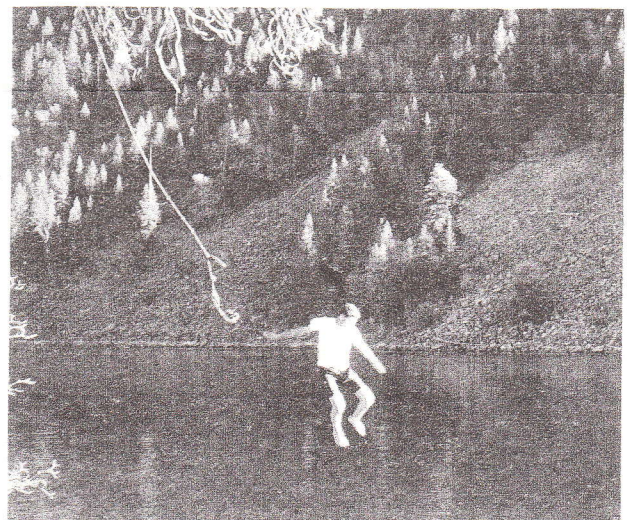
Philip pauses in prayer at a grave in our cemetery.



Seminarians pray at one of the outdoor stations on the path up the hill to the cemetery.



A view from Thompson Pass.



Isaac jumps off the rope swing into Lake Pend Oreille in September.

Electives

by Fulton Abernathey, gr. 9

Every Wednesday after lunch the seminarians have electives. We each selected an elective during the first week of school from among the following four choices: carpentry, piano/organ, home economics and leather crafts. Phil Dunphy and I chose leather crafts with Mr. Strain.

So far, we've learned how to braid leather with four or six strands and also how to tie knots. Braiding can be time-consuming when you're just a beginner, but when you learn how to hold the strands correctly and become accustomed to it, it's fast and fun.

Over the last few weeks we made a number of braided objects. We each made a key-chain out of tan and brown-colored leather. Phil made a decoration for a cowboy hat and I made a ring.

Braiding helps to build coordination and makes you nimble with your fingers. The elective period is one of our favorite classes because we learn how to work with our hands.

A Final Word

A triduum of Masses will be offered at the seminary on November 2-4 for the departed souls whose names you have submitted. We will also recite daily prayers for the faithful departed throughout the month.

Towards the end of this month, we will begin our novena in preparation for the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady. All our friends and benefactors will have a special remembrance in these devotions.

Please remember to let us know if you have a change of address. We also would appreciate your spreading the word about our seminary and our newsletter. If you have friends or relatives who would like to receive our newsletter, encourage them to write us.

We again wish to express our thanks for your support, without which the operation of the seminary would not be possible. May God reward you.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

Do you have a vocation?

If you are a young man of high school age who has a vocation, then St. Joseph Seminary may be the place for you. Our four-year course of studies offers the regular high school curriculum, with an emphasis on Theology, Latin, choir and foreign language. A well-rounded program of daily Mass, prayer and sports complements our academic schedule. For more information, write to the rector of St. Joseph Seminary at the address below.

Seminary Support Club

If you are not yet a member of the Seminary Support Club and would like to become a member, you may write to the seminary at the address below. Members pledge to pray for the success of the seminary and, if able, to send a regular financial contribution for its support.



The view from Mount Calvary Cemetery is breath-taking.

The Guardian is published monthly for the enjoyment of our benefactors and for the family members of our seminarians. This newsletter is free upon request.

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