

THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

January 2000

Winter has come to the seminary, and with it, a blanket of white. We have already received five snowfalls, each an impressive reminder of the Creator's beauty. Our location among the hills of northern Idaho provides more snowfall than that received in the valley below.

This time of year also means Christmas vacation. The seminarians have worked hard—not to mention their teachers—and all are looking forward to two weeks of well-deserved respite with their families.

Serving Our Lord at the Altar

by Charlie Rodriguez, gr. 9

Serving is one of the seminarians' favorite activities. If a server can't make his scheduled assignment, five others immediately offer themselves and their service to God. We are eager to serve, but we are also anxious to serve well. To do so, we seminarians must know by heart the rubrics and the Latin responses. We want to do our best to

serve correctly, because we are serving God.

It is an honor to serve Our Lord as a "knight of the altar." It pleases and glorifies God to see a young man serving for Him at the altar. To us it is a highly revered and respected privilege to serve Almighty God.

Did you know that altar serving is the right of clerics who have received the order of acolyte, one of the minor orders in preparation for the priesthood? Technically, we're not even supposed to serve. So it is a privilege that the Church gives us. What an awesome grace to serve on God as His own Knights of the Altar.

We seminarians serve at Low Mass, High Mass, High Mass with incense, and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. A couple of us were even privileged to serve a Pontifical High Mass, which, of course, is the High Mass of a bishop. In all these opportunities to serve God, we strive for piety, reverence, and love. These are the major qualities of a good altar server.

Latin class

by Phil Dunphy, gr. 9

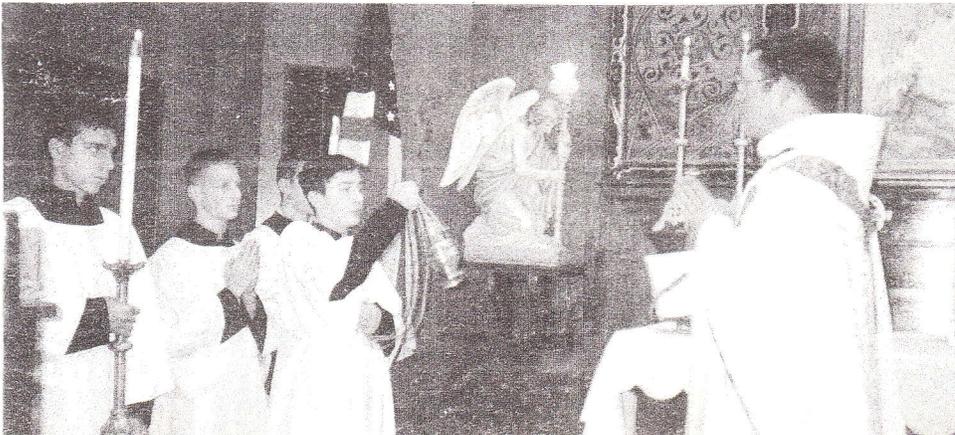
Latin class is the second period during the day. It is one of the most important, although one of the hardest, of our subjects.

Latin takes a lot of studying to learn the five declensions, the vocabulary and the conjugations of the verbs. Right now, we're learning the various tenses of the four conjugations of verbs. We have learned that there are six tenses in Latin: present, imperfect, future, perfect, pluperfect, and future perfect. Having mastered the active voice of each tense, we are now concentrating on learning the passive voice forms.

Latin is probably one of the most necessary of our subjects because it is used in many ways at the seminary. For example, we use Latin in serving the Mass and other ceremonies of the liturgy. A knowledge of Latin helps us better understand the meaning of the liturgy and what is taking place. It also is used in many hymns we sing and in prayers we recite.

Many mottoes are in Latin, including those of popes, bishops, religious orders and even states and cities. The motto of Pope Pius XI, for example, was *Pax Christi in Regno Christi*, which means "The Peace of Christ is in the Kingdom of Christ."

Latin is probably the hardest of all subjects, but it has its advantages: a better understanding of the liturgy and hymns, and a greater appreciation of our Faith. These thoughts help to make us more appreciative in learning Latin, the language of the Church.



The Master of Ceremonies incenses the priest after the chanting of the Gospel.

Devotion to Mary

by Kevin Cox, gr. 10

Seminarians know that our mother Mary is the most important saint in heaven. To show our devotion to Mary we sing a hymn to Our Lady every night at the conclusion of night prayers. We sing different hymns or "antiphons," depending on the season. For example, during Advent we sing *Alma Redemptoris Mater*, while during the Pentecost season we sang the *Salve Regina*. On Sundays and Thursdays we have a procession with lighted candles while we sing the hymn.

In this short period at the end of the day, we lift our hearts to the Blessed Virgin Mary and thank her for all that she has done for us over the past day. I think that this is the perfect way to end the day because Mary is so good to us. It is a small sacrifice out of our day to give Our Lady this act of devotion in proof of our gratitude. In this way we are giving something back to her, instead of only being on the receiving end of her blessings and mercy.

Basketball

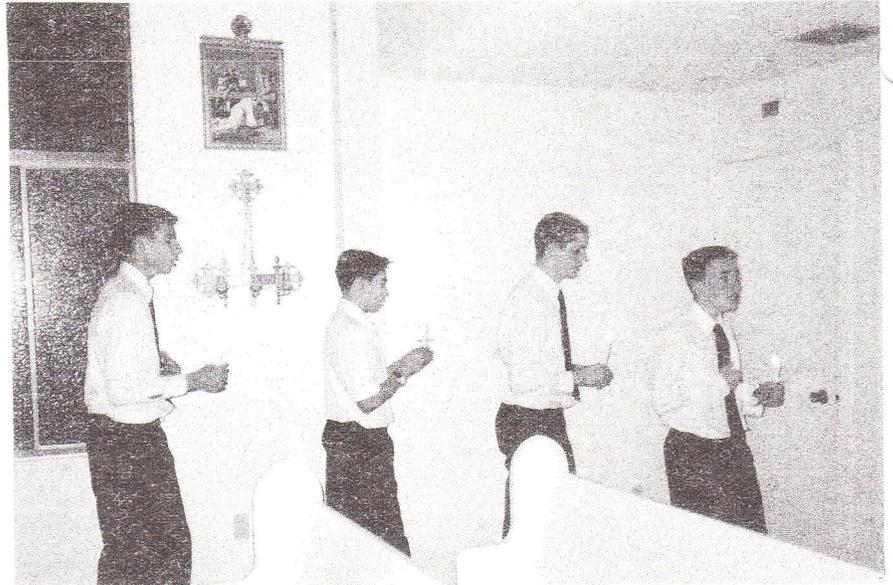
by Francis Abernathey, gr. 10

Fall and winter, in my opinion, are the best times of the year for several reasons. In autumn the weather is great, and the trees become resplendent as the earth prepares for winter. Then winter comes and covers the world in a blanket of beautiful white. But with the cold weather and snow comes something even better — the start of the basketball season!

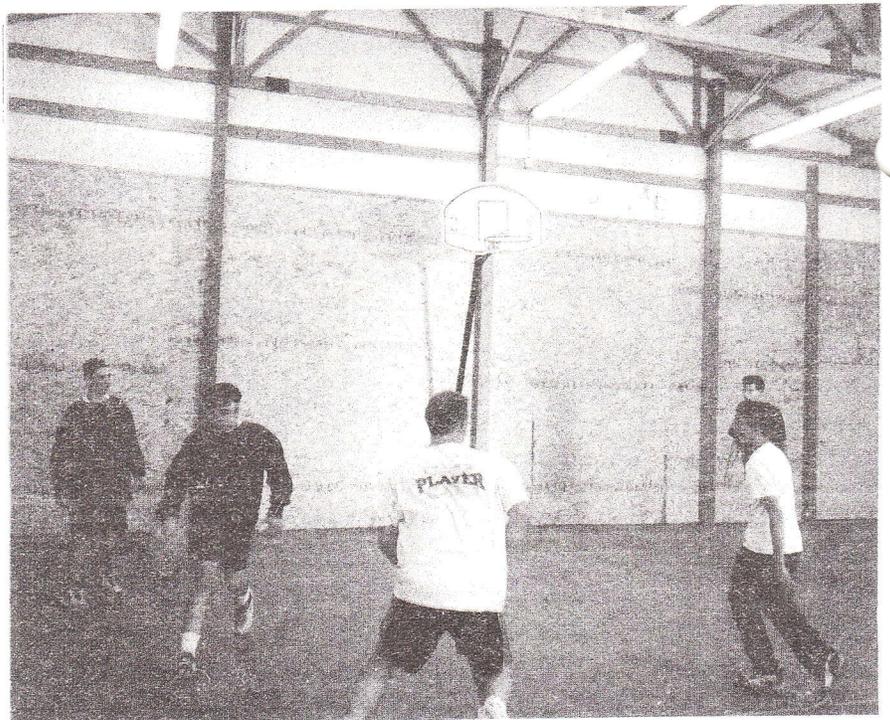
This is only our first year at St. Joseph's, but we already have a team. Of course, before you can have a team, you have to choose a name. I won't go into the difficulty we had in deciding, because it seemed to take us forever, and I don't want to write a book on that particular subject. Anyway, we finally chose the name *Sentinels*.

Now that I've told you what the team's name is, I had better tell you a little about its members. There are only eight of us in all: six seminarians and two boys from the eighth grade of our parish school. Our tallest player is Isaac, who is just over six feet in height. Two of us are a couple inches shorter than that, but most of our players are considerably shorter.

Though we don't have much in height, we make up for it in fervor. We all love the game and that is a basic building block for a championship team. None of us has had much experience, but there is definitely talent on this team. With practice and



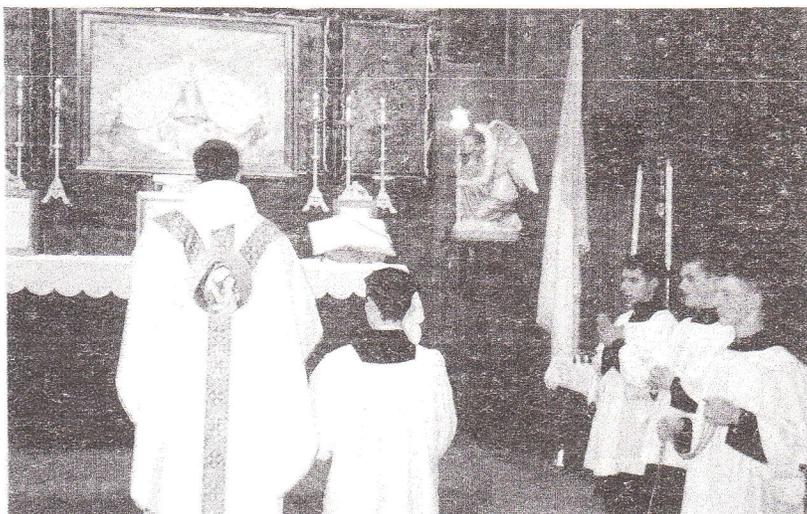
The seminarians honor Our Lady with a candlelight procession in the chapel.



The seminarians work on their strategy during basketball practice.

some time, I know we will be able to use well the talent we have. Our schedule is not yet complete but should be ready by January.

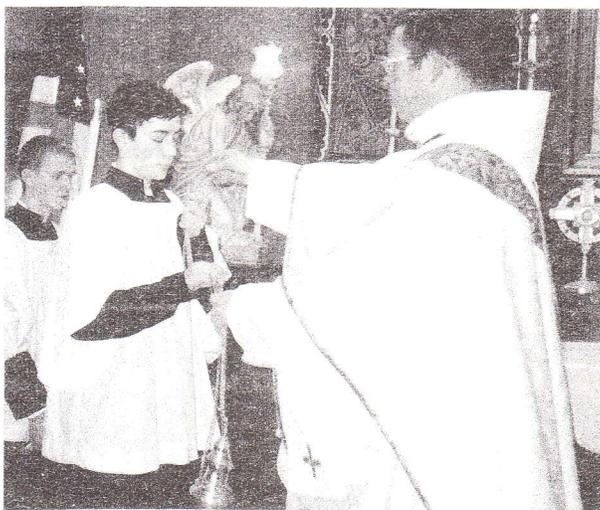
Perhaps, we will be able to see you at some of the games. But if you can't make it, I know you will be there with us in spirit. Hopefully, we will give St. Joseph's a good name — not only for winning but for being a disciplined and well-mannered team.



Prayers at the foot of the altar during a High Mass.



Blessing the incense.



Father receives the thurible for the chanting of the Gospel.



View from the seminary balcony looking towards the church with snow hanging from roof.



View of freshly plowed driveway leading up to the seminary.



Is that Father's car?

Snow

by Fulton Abernathey, gr. 9

Cold weather brings a lot of things, but the best of all is snow. So far we've had several snowfalls, but the best was the one that came on a Wednesday night at the beginning of December. We were overjoyed to find that it had continued to snow throughout the night and into the following day. We ended up with about a foot of snow!

Since our seminary is located among the hills, we are surrounded by many places to sled and snowboard. The main hill used by us is the one closest to the seminary. Over the last few snowfalls we've managed to construct a number of large jumps out of packed snow. After school everyone is out sledding, and we usually continue sledding until it's time for basketball practice.

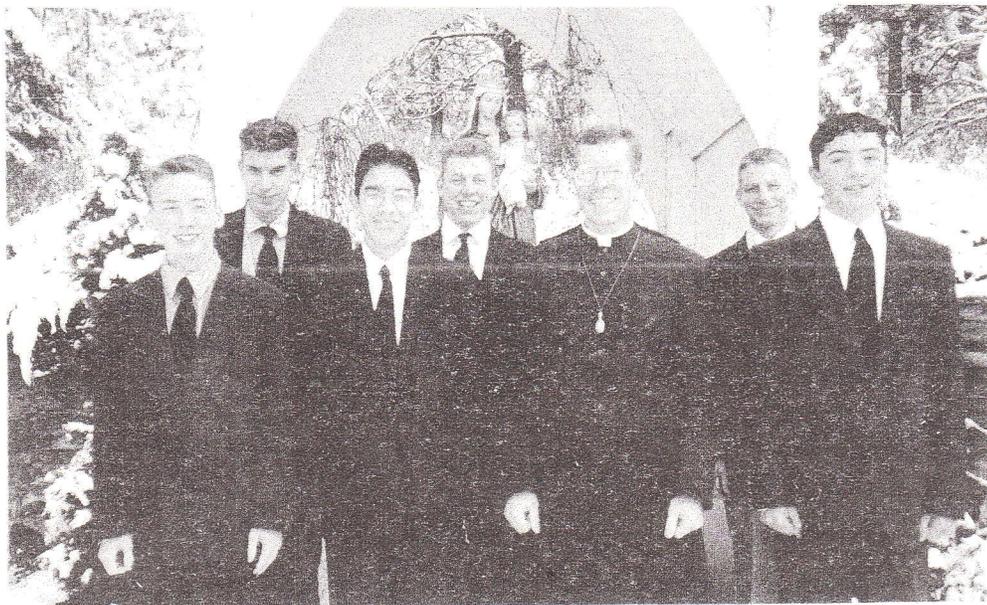
Even our cook, Mrs. Carpenter, has decided that this winter she's going to go sledding for the first time in her life. Having recently moved from Georgia, she's still not used to driving in the snow, so I don't think she appreciates the snow as much as we do.

So far the weather has been staying around 30°F in the day and considerably colder at night. We expect a lot more snow this winter and will fill you in on it next time.

Happy New Year

By the time you receive this issue of *The Guardian*, the feast of Christmas will likely have passed. Be assured, however, that it comes to you with the prayer that your Christmas has been joyous and that the New Year will be one of rich blessings for you and your loved ones. Please keep us in your prayers, that this new year will be for the seminary one of growth — both individually and in numbers. As always, we are most grateful for your prayers and your support. May God reward you.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI



The seminarians and Father pose in front of the shrine of Our Lady following the first snowfall.

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 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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