



THE GUARDIAN

Vol. I, No. 7

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

March 2000

In this issue we would like to describe several exciting events which took place at our seminary during the past month. The latter part of January brought us a visit from the CMRI priests, the postulancy ceremony, a visit to Seattle, and a skiing trip. In February we celebrated with High Masses and special ceremonies two feasts of Our Lady: the Purification and Our Lady of Lourdes. We have also enjoyed competing in several basketball games. We hope you enjoy our brief articles on these various events of the past month.

The ceremony of postulancy

by Philip Dunphy, gr. 9

On January 20 of this year, Wade White, one of our seminarians — who is already a high school graduate — and Tom Lavery, a member of the seminary in Omaha, became postulants in the religious Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen.

The ceremony took place in our chapel at St. Joseph Seminary. The Bishop and many other priests were present because of the priests' meetings which were being held during that week at Mount St. Michael. The ceremony started with a few hymns and the Rosary. Then Wade and Tom knelt at the Communion rail and asked the Bishop to be received into the Order, pledging to follow the Rule insofar as it applies to them. Then the Bishop presented each of them with a large scapular and rosary. There was a small reception after and dinner with the priests.

As Wade and Tom both became postulants, they were accepted into the order of CMRI (Latin initials for the Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen). Both are eager to get on with the steps to the priesthood. Wade will be a postulant for six months until he becomes a novice. After his novitiate year he will go to the major seminary in Omaha to continue on his journey to the priesthood.

Our visit to the Little Flower

by Kevin Cox, gr. 10

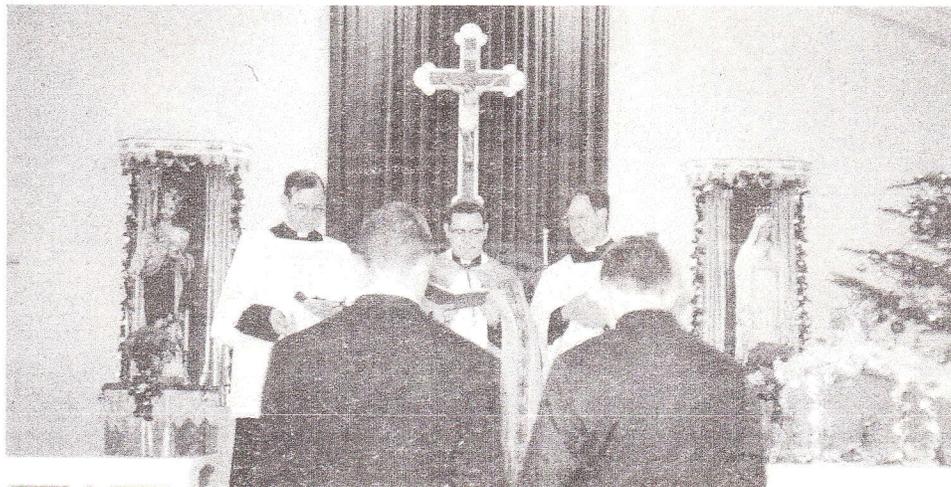
As we loaded up the Suburban — or "Old Betsy" as one of the seminarians calls it — everyone was excited about going to Seattle to view the relics of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. When all was ready we made a visit to the Blessed Sacrament and started off.

Time flew by on that trip, most likely because, after praying the rosary, we played cards practically the whole way there. We had a couple of hours after arriving in Seattle before the church with the relics would be open. So we visited Puget Sound, and what a sight that was at sunset!

Finally we arrived at the church where the relics were being shown. After waiting 40 minutes outside and saying two rosaries in honor of St. Thérèse, we made it to the front of the church to see the relics. We each took a flower petal and venerated the reliquary or casing in which the relics are housed.

That evening we went to the Rodriguez' home for a delicious meal and overnight stay. The next morning Father had Mass at St. Mary's Church in Tacoma before we headed home.

How interesting a trip to actually see the relics of St. Thérèse! She was a normal but devout girl who loved Jesus and Our Lady very much and became a great saint. Let us hope that our visit to see her relics will inspire us to become even more like her.



Wade and Tom approach the altar rail to be received as postulants of CMRI.

An evening with the priests

by Wade White

Last month the CMRI order had its biannual priests' meeting. At these meetings the priests discuss a variety of topics pertaining to their ministry. At the conclusion of their meetings the priests, who reside in various parts of the country, look forward to having some recreation together.

At the conclusion of this year's meetings, all the priests came up to St. Joseph Seminary. The experience for us was a lasting one. We all had the opportunity to meet and talk with priests we had never met before, as well as with the pastors from our individual parishes back home. As you can imagine, it was quite a lively gathering.

Everyone enjoyed the occasion. Two seminarians had just been received into this wonderful order and there was plenty of conversation and jokes. Some of us took the opportunity to ask the priests how they came to enter CMRI. There was a volleyball game with everyone and then a basketball game between the seminarians and the priests.

Toward the end of the basketball game, our stomachs told us it was time to eat. Of course Mrs. Carpenter made another fantastic meal, and all of our bellies were filled with the delicious dinner of Chicken Marsala, topped off with Napoleons for dessert.

We especially took advantage of the evening to speak with His Excellency Bishop Mark Pivarunas. The Bishop had some interesting hunting stories and a few funny jokes. All of us appreciated this wonderful assembly of religious, and we all look forward to next year when we can once again host the priests for an evening.

The basketball season

by Fulton Abernathey, gr. 9

As I wipe the sweat from my face I look over at the scoreboard. There are nine seconds remaining, and we're behind by two points. Two of our best players have just fouled out. I pass the ball in, then get it back. As I dribble down the court I pass the ball to Charlie. Immediately two guards converge upon him. He fakes, then shoots. The ball bounces off the rim. Isaac rebounds and attempts to put the ball through the hoop but misses. The whistle then blows announcing the end of the game. The final score: *Sentinels*, 69; the other team, 71.

It was a great game, but unfortunately we came up just short. Despite the loss, we all enjoyed the game, as well as all of the games we have played so far. Our record now stands at three wins and two losses — not a bad record for the first year. Our season began late, but our coordinator has planned on having about twelve games this first year.

The basketball season has been fun so far. We really enjoy playing basketball, which is a good way to develop teamwork. We will inform you of the remainder of our season in next month's *Guardian*.

Food for the soul

by Charlie Rodriguez, gr. 9

Every morning during breakfast the seminarians listen to spiritual reading. We pray grace, go through the buffet line to get our breakfast, and then sit down. We immediately begin to speak when . . . ring-a-ling! — the bell signals that it is time for the lector to begin the reading. Poor lector! The lector is the seminarian assigned to read for the week.

For each one of us, being lector means indescribable penance! We like to read, but not while the aroma of Mrs. Carpenter's delicious breakfast wafts through the air, filling our nostrils. "Mmm . . . oh, I mean, St. Francis then . . ." What a penance!

Although the reading takes place all during breakfast, the lector is finally rewarded for his patience. Eventually someone else replaces the long-suffering soul, and he goes eagerly to the counter where his prized breakfast awaits him.

If you don't think this is penance, I dare you to stand there, trying to read, when suddenly the smell of pancakes and sausage and eggs hits you! Well, Jesus said, "Unless you do penance, you will not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven."

What? It's my turn? But Father, it's such a big penance!

The seminarians hit the slopes

by Francis Abernathey, gr. 10

We hit the slopes all right, and we hit them hard. It was a nice day to go skiing. There were about 10 inches of new snow — everything was white and beautiful. For some of the seminarians it was the first time skiing, and they had to experience the snow in a different way. The first time you go skiing you usually spend most of the day lying on your back, but it's still fun.

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Our basketball team, including four junior high students, numbers 10 players.



The Bishop places the scapular over the shoulders of Wade, receiving him as a postulant.



Father prepares to incense the candles on Candlemas Day.



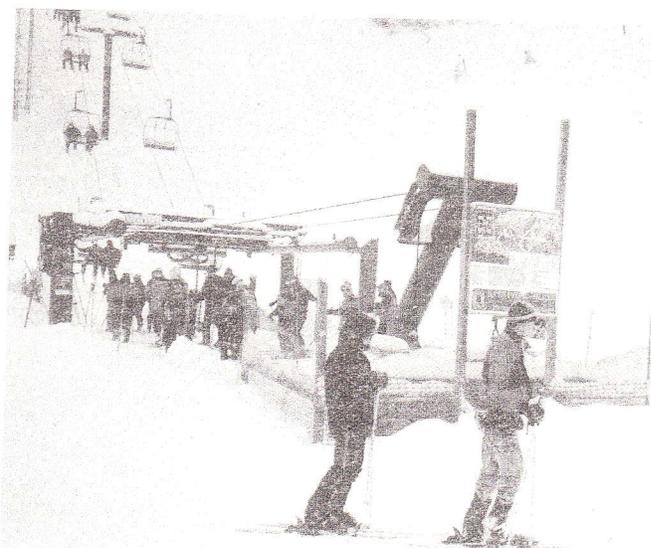
Father distributes blessed candles to the servers on Candlemas Day.



Isaac makes a point about chess.



Two seminarians get ready to "hit the slopes."



Two seminarians head back to the lift for one more run.

The slopes

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If you especially like crashing you can try snowboarding. The first time you snowboard you crash about a thousand times and make friends with about a dozen trees. Then the next day you can barely walk. It feels as though the limbs are going to fall off your body at any second. Even though all this happens and you feel horrible, you still have a great time and can't wait to go back. This really doesn't make sense, but it's true. I can't explain why it's true, it just is.

Fr. Benedict and his brother, Fr. Brendan, both came along skiing with us and had a wonderful time. I guess this strange force that draws skiers back to the slopes works on religious and seminarians as well as others, because we're going back soon.

In closing

Recently, we were saddened to receive word of the death of a member of our Seminary Support Club, who passed away several weeks ago. The seminarians sang a Requiem High Mass for the repose of his soul. In your charity, please remember to pray for the departed soul of Bob Aardema.

One of the advantages of our location is the frequent spotting of wildlife, including deer and moose. I have seen several moose near St. Joseph Seminary recently, but the last one was seen "up close and personal." In fact, I didn't just see him, I ran into him! As I traveled to Coeur d'Alene early last Sunday morning, I was suddenly surprised by this huge bull moose who ran right out in front of the car from the darkness of the woods. I tried to stop or swerve but it was pointless on the fresh snow, and the car caught him in the hind legs. The animal's momentum carried him across the left side of the hood and onto the road, amazingly leaving only one small crack in a piece of ornamentation on the car's hood. The animal slowly got up, dazed, but otherwise unhurt, and walked off into the woods. The next time I think I would prefer to enjoy these behemoths from a distance.

We are all looking forward to the month of St. Joseph. We will honor our patron in a special way throughout the month of March, but especially during the novena and on his feast. I am

personally looking forward to finally getting a few days respite when Fr. Casimir Puskorius comes to preach the annual seminarians' retreat. Please pray for the success of this retreat on the first weekend of Lent.

The spring is also the time of year when I begin to plan for next year. A big part of that planning is the recruitment of suitable candidates for the seminary for the upcoming scholastic year. In a few weeks I will undertake the first of several trips to meet new applicants and their families, in order to answer their questions and interview them for acceptance. Please keep this intention in your prayers as well.

Once again, I want to thank you most sincerely for your support. I do appreciate hearing from you as well, but please understand if you do not receive an answer to the notes which many of you are kind enough to send. It is utterly impossible for me to respond to everyone, but I do remember all of you in my prayers daily and at Holy Mass.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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.

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.

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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