



THE GUARDIAN

Vol. II, No. 4

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

December 2000

On the last day of October we obtained our new van. Thanks to the generous donation of one of our supporters, we have been able to obtain a much-needed 15-passenger Dodge van. Now all those jokes about "Old Betsy" will no longer be heard. You see, Old Betsy was our Suburban. Not only were we scrunched in the Suburban, but you never knew if you would arrive at your destination, or when you would arrive. Our new van will provide for future growth and, hopefully, be with us for many years to come.

Already we have had our first real snowfall at the seminary and are looking forward to all the fun that comes with it. We also look forward to our basketball season. Our first game will be on November 29. Practices began, at last, on November 13. We were all happy to finally get back into our little gym, which had been used over the last two months as a workshop.

With the month of December comes the season of Advent, an important season for us at the seminary. We observe the custom of the Advent wreath and pass around the "sacrifice bowl" at breakfast. In our sacrifice bowl are penances devised by the seminarians and written on small pieces of paper. You reach in, pull out a piece of paper, read your sacrifice for the day and then put it back. In addition, we perform other hidden sacrifices to prepare for the coming of the Christ Child. For we know that, if we want Him to come into our hearts on Christmas, we must prepare room by penance. May you all have a blessed Advent, which is the best way to begin a joyous Christmas.

Out of the depths

by Kevin Cox, gr. 11

When you think of the month of November, what do you usually think of? Well, the answer that I am looking for is: the Poor Souls. Here at the seminary we have several customs for helping out these suffering souls during this month.

A well-known practice is that of the *Toties Quoties* indulgence. This can be gained from noon of All Saints' Day until midnight of All Souls' Day. For every visit to the Blessed Sacrament during which we pray six times, the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be, we may gain a plenary indulgence for a Poor Soul under the usual conditions. We all made many of these visits and Father allowed us to stay up as late as we were able on November 2 for this purpose.

Another good practice is to visit the cemetery in order to recite special prayers for the Poor Souls. Our cemetery is just a short walk up the hill from the seminary, so we have taken the opportunity to visit it often during this month.

During this month there are also more Requiem Masses said than at any other time of the year. The Requiem Mass is a beautiful Mass with some variations that require special rubrics for the servers. (We have to be on our toes when we serve a Requiem Mass so that we don't make mistakes.) On All Souls' Day we sang the Requiem Mass, which was

December calendar

- 3 — Advent begins
- 5 — Basketball
- 8 — Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Holyday of Obligation (no school)
- 9 — Basketball
- 14 — Mid-Quarter
- 15 — Basketball
- 22 — Christmas vacation begins after classes

our best High Mass of the year so far. Afterwards, along with some of the school children and laity, we had a Rosary procession to the cemetery to recite prayers for the faithful departed.

Of course, we also say prayers every day of the month after Mass for the faithful departed. All in all, it has been a moving and spiritually beneficial month for all of us. By praying for the Poor Souls we also help ourselves, for the souls you rescue will never forget what you have done for them and will always pray for you.



Students lead a procession to the cemetery on All Souls' Day.

T. G. I. F.

by *Charlie Rodriguez, gr. 10*

Weekends. The time of the week every student longs for, even we seminarians. Some of you may wonder, "What is there to do at the seminary on a weekend to keep those boys occupied?" Well, there are millions of things we can do here to have fun. Here are just a few.

On Saturday, Mass attendance is usually optional, unless it is a First Saturday or special feast. After the long school week, it is nice to be able to sleep in for a change. After our morning prayers and breakfast, we have chores and then free time. It has become a custom to go to Mt. St. Michael in the afternoon to play basketball in the gym. We have the gym to ourselves for two hours. To us, that is two hours of precious basketball time. Basketball season is coming and we need all the practice we can get in a full-sized gym.

On recent weekends over the past couple of months, we have had outings for such things as bowling and paintball and have also spent a night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Slater. Towards the end of October, we spent a Sunday afternoon at Silverwood theme park, enjoying the rides before the cold weather sets in. Another thing we like to do is to go on hikes up the trails here at St. Joseph's. There are many trails here that we have yet to discover, new paths to tread farther out in the surrounding area. Sometimes, we like to just pick a spot and hang out with each other. Weekends also give us plenty of time for Ping-Pong and other games.

Once in awhile, we go to a store and gather ample supplies of everything necessary for sustaining life here. CANDY!!!! When we have the opportunity, such as at the bowling alley, we also like to play at the arcades. We all agree that arcades are good for our reflexes and we could use them to improve our basketball skills.

There you have it — your inside look at life in the seminary on a weekend. As you can tell, we have zillions of things to keep busy and have fun, all in the sight of God. We're very blessed to have the pleasure of living in a place that, I believe, God has chosen for his future priests. I hope that next year other seminarians have the opportunity to enjoy the fun we enjoy now.

Packaged for us

by *Fulton Abernathy, gr. 10*

When All Saints' Day came around this year, it was like heaven (A free day always seems like heaven.). For this blessed day, we had planned a little excursion to a local park for football. After Mass we had choir practice and then left on our outing.



Here is a picture of our new, trustworthy van.

Due to rain the night before, our playing field was saturated. When you combine water with grass you get a substance that is as slippery as grease. During the early part of the game, we spent most of our time slipping and falling down. Later on, we got a little bit more used to the ground and managed to only slip 10 or 15 times a minute (slight exaggeration). Towards the end of the game it became really exciting. My team was behind by four touchdowns and we only had a half hour left to play. Suddenly, something happened and our team scored five consecutive touchdowns to win it 13-12.

After the game Father treated everyone to a game of bowling. Before the game started, Father promised three Snickers candy bars to the person who got the best score. Well, the scores went back and forth but, in the end, Phil came out on top. After this, we all went home so we could get ready for school the next day. We all hope that God will send us some more of this "heaven on earth" soon.

The greatest season

by *Francis Abernathy, gr. 11*

Yes, it's that time of year once more. Time to lace up and start running line sprints and laps. Basketball season is here and it's about time. We are all getting a little out of shape and nothing's worse than a lot of fat seminarians.

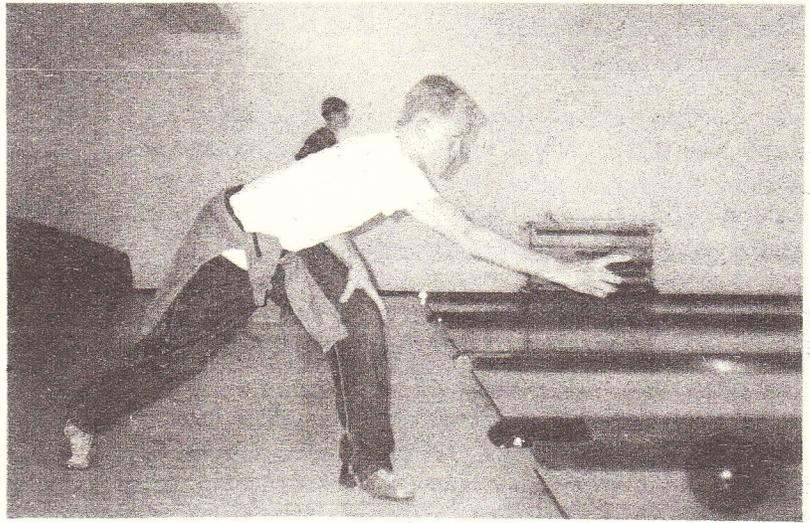
This year there are a few new things concerning basketball. First, we have new team members who need a proper introduction. Mark West, from California, and Louis Picard, from Canada, join the squad. We also have raised money for new jerseys. We wanted to change the color, and some of us needed larger sizes. Now we will wear navy blue and white jerseys.

Last, but definitely not least, we have a new athletic director. This is something we were lacking last year and are very happy to have this year. Our new AD is none other than our

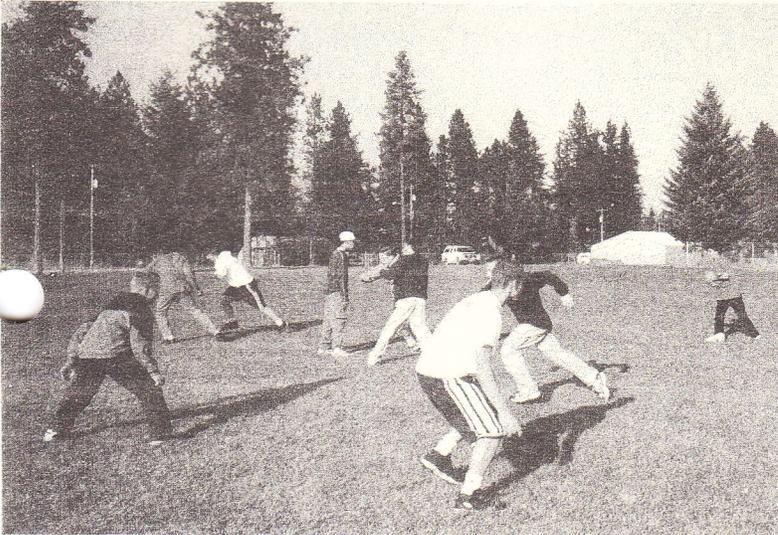
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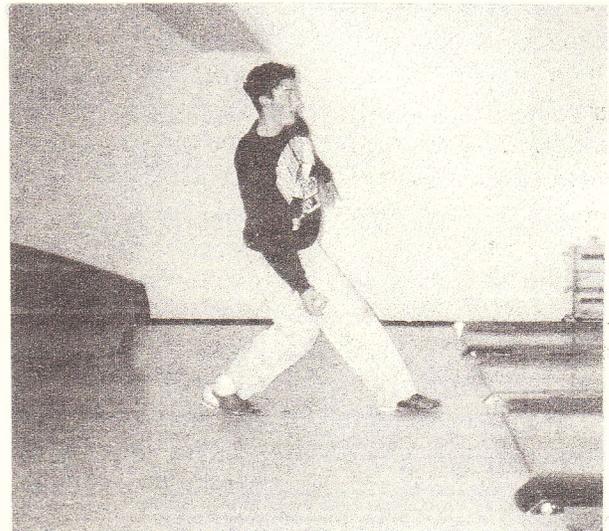
The seminarians serve a High Mass in honor of Christ the King.



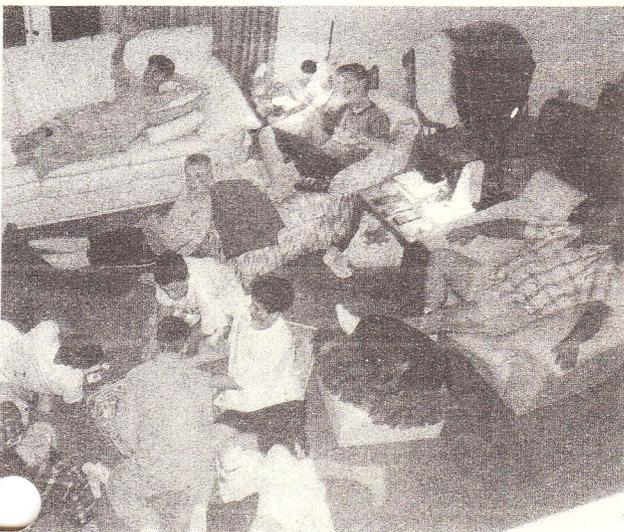
Louis sends the bowling ball on its way.



The seminarians enjoyed a great game of football on the Holy Day.



Phil is our bowling champion.



The seminarians relax at the Slater residence.



Father leads prayers in the cemetery on All Souls' Day.

The greatest season

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own illustrious physics teacher, Mr. Richard Gilfoil. His efforts are very much appreciated and we thank him full-heartedly for the time he spends scheduling games for us.

I hope we will be able to play our hardest and give our school a good name and our fans something to cheer for.

Veni, veni Emmanuel

Winter came early to Idaho this year, with our first snowfall on November 8. The seminarians were so excited, that it was difficult maintaining their attention during class. They kept peering out the window at the continuously falling snow. Every chance they could get between classes, and especially after school, was spent outside. Mark West, our new seminarian from southern California got his first experience in throwing a snowball — and getting hit by one. Despite that, he has decided that he definitely prefers the snow.

Last year the seminarians learned how to sing Vespers of Our Lady, which we sang on her feasts. This year we had not done this during the first two months of school, as I had not the time to teach it to our new members. But those who already know how to sing Vespers have been constantly asking me when we will start singing it again. So in early November we made a concerted effort to have everyone learn the chant and then sang it on Our Lady's feast of the Presentation. We have also learned the solemn tone for the Salve Regina, which we sing at night prayers. It is truly gratifying for me to see how much these teenagers enjoy the beautiful Gregorian Chant of the Church, which transcends all nationalities and cultures and reaches out to the faithful of every age.

As we approach December, we know that Advent is just around the corner. Advent, although lasting but a few weeks, is a very important liturgical season, since our preparation for Christmas will determine the graces we receive at Christ's birth. At the seminary we pray a special novena before Christmas. We will be happy to remember your intentions during this novena, if you wish to submit them by using the enclosed card. Please be sure, however, to send your intentions as soon as possible so that they can be placed on the altar in time. Once again, we thank

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 seminarians sing a High Mass on All Souls' Day.

you for your prayers and support, and we assure you of our daily prayers for you and your loved ones, especially during the coming Advent and Christmas seasons.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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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