Perhaps the most significant event of the past month was a field trip to Grand Coulee Dam, which was educational and fun as well. We have also had quite a few liturgical ceremonies and processions over the past month and are now looking forward in a few days to the ceremony of the dedication of our church and Pontifical High Mass.

School will soon be out and, of course, we are all anxiously counting down the days to our summer vacation. All the seminarians would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our readers for your support and prayers during the past school year. Please continue to pray for us and for the seminary.

A big dam
by Francis Abernathey, gr. 11

On Thursday, May 17, the seminarians took a field trip to Grand Coulee Dam, the largest dam in the United States. Grand Coulee is about three hours from the seminary in central Washington. Our only stop on the way was to pick up Mr. Duff, our science teacher who would also be our guide for this field trip. Our trip had been quiet until then, as we prayed the rosary en route to his home. After Mr. Duff got into the van there was constant chatter and laughing all the way to Grand Coulee. For each of us, this was our first trip to Grand Coulee.

I guess the best way to describe the dam is “big.” It is a mile wide, five hundred feet tall and five hundred feet thick at the base, made out of solid cement. At the visitor center we watched a movie on the history of the dam and looked around at the exhibits. It was pretty neat but the best part of the trip was yet to come.

After visiting Grand Coulee Dam we left for a geological wonder called Dry Falls. These “falls” were left from the waters that crashed through central Washington after Lake Missoula broke through an ice dam at the end of the Ice Age. If there were water flowing over the falls today, they would be the largest in the world. Mr. Duff explained how Dry Falls refutes the theory of uniformitarianism and shows that catastrophism explains the development of earth’s terrain.

After enjoying the visitors’ center at Dry Falls, we explored the caves and cliffs around Lake Lenore, in the Dry Falls area. The cliffs were huge and ideal for climbing so that’s what we did. It was almost perfect until, on the way down, Louis and I ran through poison ivy.

We concluded the outing with a barbecue and a game of baseball at a park in Moses Lake. Of course, on the way back we just had to stop for ice cream — the perfect way to end a perfect day. Well, almost perfect. We all had a great time and everything was fine except for the poison ivy. We can’t wait for our next trip.

Omnia pro Deo
by Charlie Rodriguez, gr. 10

When God’s house needs to be repaired, enhanced, or gotten ready for a great feast, whom do you call upon? The seminarians, of course! On a rainy day in May, Father canceled several morning classes so the seminarians could help Mr. Strain move...
Omnia pro Deo  
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When the seminarians finished breakfast, we changed into
work clothes and hurried over to the church. As soon as we
arrived there, we immediately began to remove the pews. Then,
while a few of the seminarians ripped out carpet, others were
busy pulling out staples and nails. After this was accomplished,
most of the seminarians tore out a section of the floor that
needed to be redone, while others carted away the debris. As
you can see, each seminarian did his part to help make the
church more pleasing and worthy of Our Lord in the Blessed
Sacrament.

Although the work lasted throughout the morning, the semi-
narians enjoyed working for God. This joy was of a two-fold
nature: we were able to help make the church better and we got
out of classes for the morning.

Those of us who helped improve the church are overjoyed
that our reward will be in Heaven. We also know that this was
done in Our Lady’s honor, for our church was going to have
the floor refinished, in preparation for the parish feastday of
Mary Immaculate Queen. We are glad that we were given the
opportunity to help out.

Survival of the fittest
by Philip Dunphy, gr. 10

During this past year some of us seminarians made hikes
into the hills behind the seminary to camp. Isaac, Phil,
Louis, Matt, and Charlie were involved in three of these
camping expeditions, and each time a new situation arose.

The first camping trip came on a Friday in mid-December.
We were all bored and decided to go on a hunting, hiking and
camping excursion. It was hunting season for deer and it was
still light. As it was only 9 degrees, we were all bundled up.
On the way up to our camping spot we tracked a deer as far as
we could in the snow, but we had no luck. Since it was so cold,
we decided to make a fire right away to avoid the danger of
hypothermia. Our fire took a while to get going, but it
was well worth it. As soon as we could, we boiled water
and made Ramen noodles and hot chocolate. After some
stories by the campfire, we went to the tent for the night.
In the morning we packed up and looked forward to the
next time.

Another camping excursion was in the beginning of
April when there was still snow on the ground in the
hills behind the seminary. After school, we hiked up to
the old monastery foundation. There we got the fire
going immediately and built it very high. After the fire
again enjoyed some Ramen, we put up the tent and put
load of logs on the fire. The fire was excellently

positioned because the concrete walls of the monastery held the
heat in. Later that night one of the seminarians woke up and
decided that the fire was too hot and perhaps was
getting a little too close to the tent. He woke the others and
together we moved the tent for safety’s sake. After that we
went back to sleep and then left early in the morning to get to
the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Despite the mishap on our last camp-out, these camping
excursions remain a highlight of the past year. We definitely
plan on more overnight camping in the hills next year.

Waiter! Waiter!
by Fulton Abernathey, gr. 10

Mother’s Day is a very special day of the year. It is a time
made for us to remember our mothers and all that they
have done for us, but especially to think of Our Mother in
Heaven. This year for Mother’s Day two of the women of the
parish organized a candlelight dinner and talent show as a
school fundraiser.

Some of the seminarians joined a few other boys from the
parish in serving the dinner. All these waiters were dressed in
formal attire. Before the dinner started the guests visited with
one another while they sipped on wine or champagne. The for-
mal dinner began with salad, followed by the main course,
consisting of a choice between ham and chicken. After dinner
was served the waiters had a few minutes to eat something
before the dessert, which featured, among other things,
Mrs. Carpenter’s famous Napoleon.

The show that followed dinner was very entertaining and
had everyone laughing. The spokesmen of the show were two
men from the parish who were dressed in 60’s era-style
clothing. Half of the merriment of the show was provided by
these men and the other half by the singing of seminarians and
the parishioners who had rehearsed their songs during the
previous month. At the end of the program all the performers
joined on stage for the finale.

This was a very successful night and also the biggest fund-
raiser that the school has ever had. We enjoyed participating,
and we wish a belated Happy Mother’s Day to all.

Mr. Duff explains the origin of Dry Falls to the seminarians.
Francis and Matt scout out a rock formation high above Lake Lenore at Dry Falls.

Mr. Duff and the seminarians investigate the caves at Lake Lenore which were created by the rush of water through the Dry Falls area.

The seminarians assist Father as he confers the Sacrament of Matrimony upon a young couple at Mount St. Michael.

The seminarians joined in the daily public Rosary during May.

"Mighty Isaac" takes the plate on a warm summer-like afternoon.

The seminarians "at home" in Mr. and Mrs. Slaters' living room.
The most beautiful thing
by Kevin Cox, gr. 11

Sleep is most likely one of the top priorities of the seminarians. When a person comes to the seminary, he realizes more than ever why sleep is such a beautiful thing. Now, as the year is coming to an end, we think about how much sleep we missed by doing homework, prayers, sports etc. I am not complaining, but it makes us realize that we have an important matter to take care of this summer — catch up on sleep!

Now by telling you this, I may have given you the impression that we are deprived of such a wonderful thing. Yet, actually, that would be incorrect. As seminarians, we take advantage of any time that we have to relax and sit around, especially on the weekends.

So, all in all, sleep is a gift God has bestowed upon us to rest from the labors of the day so that we can start anew the following morning. It is a most pleasing thing — especially to the teens who need all the beauty rest possible — and no one ever gets tired of it. So this night try to make your sleep a pleasant one.

O blessed summer!

The most difficult part of a school year is the last few weeks. The temptation for students, even teachers, to surrender to fatigue is well nigh overpowering. (Our recent record-setting 90-degree temperatures aren't helping matters.) On the other hand, this time of year causes me to turn my attention to the coming year. June will bring a brief respite, and then July will usher in a busy month with many projects to be accomplished.

June is also the month of the Sacred Heart, a devotion important to any future priest. Our role as educators of seminarians is to help form living images of the meek and gentle Heart of Jesus. This is no easy task, certainly, and one that cannot be accomplished without Divine aid.

We also remember fathers in a special way this month. If you would like to have the names of any fathers — living or deceased — remembered in our masses this month, please use the enclosed card and send them in as soon as possible. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus bless you and lead us all to be more like Him.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

The seminarians prepare Our Lady's shrine for the Queenship ceremonies.

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