



# THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

August 2002

Dear Friends,

Our first Men's Retreat, held at the seminary in the latter part of June, was a great success. Men gathered from various cities in Washington and Idaho and even from as far away as Cleveland, Ohio. Altogether there were eight men who came for the retreat — not a large group but all that we were prepared to accommodate. During the three days of retreat there was daily Mass, prayer and conferences in the chapel, as well as a daily lecture in the classroom. The spiritual reading at meals was from St. Alphonsus Liguori's book The Great Means of Salvation and of Perfection. All the retreatants expressed their appreciation of the retreat, which is something we hope to offer every year after seminary classes conclude.

In early July we held our semi-annual priests' meeting in Omaha. These opportunities for discussion and comparing notes are greatly appreciated by the priests. Oftentimes, after such a meeting, parishioners will ask me, "What do you priests talk about when you get together?" Apparently, they find it hard to imagine that we can have three full days of meetings. But for the priests, there is plenty of material for discussion and review. Many of the priests live in a location where they are far removed from their brother-priests. There are many issues which they cannot discuss with even their most trusted parishioners — things which only a priest would understand. Then again, there are questions of pastoral matters in which there is no clear-cut answer. The priests will look to one another,

especially to their older confreres, for help with various decisions.

Of course, the week together is not all work and no play. We enjoy one another's company and always take some time aside from the meetings for recreational pursuits. With our daily common prayer, each priest's morning Mass and the more serious discussions, the week represents a real boost for the priests, who always return to their individual parishes with renewed energy.

Following the priests' meeting I was able to get away for 11 days of vacation. It certainly is refreshing to get away from the daily tasks for a short respite to renew the energies of mind and body. Now it's time, however, to prepare for the new school year. With seminarians arriving at the end of the month, there is much to do and only a month in which to do it.

Among various other projects, we hope to finally set up our computer lab. During the past year we received a donation of seven computers, to add to the ones we already had. Some are without monitors or other parts, and most of them have lain in a pile on one side of the classroom for the past year. This year's curriculum will feature a computer class so that all seminarians will learn how to type well and to use basic word processing programs.

Please continue to pray for vocations and for the success of our seminary. The approach of a new year is always exciting — a sort of new beginning. We will tell you about our new staff members and new seminarians in the next couple of issues. In the meantime, we count on your prayers and assure you of ours. As always, we are most grateful for your support. May God bless and reward each of you.

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*

## Cook needed

St. Joseph Seminary is in need of a cook for the coming school year. If interested, please contact the seminary at 208-687-0290.



*Fr. Benedict addresses the retreatants during one of the conferences in the seminary chapel.*



*Mrs. Salgado and her helpers provided the meals for the Men's Retreat.*

