



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

August 2005

My dear friends and benefactors,

Praised be Jesus, Mary and St. Joseph. The past couple of months have provided needed time for rest of both body and mind. My annual retreat, a short vacation, our semi-annual priests' meeting, and extra time for prayer and spiritual reading have all contributed to the rejuvenation that we all need from time to time. Teachers are like parents. We are constantly giving to our charges, by our example, our admonitions, and especially by our prayers for them. But we cannot give what we do not have. We must constantly recharge our spiritual batteries, so that we may be docile instruments in the hands of God in molding the precious souls entrusted to our care.

Now that August is at hand, however, our preparations for the coming school year begin in earnest. We are happy to welcome Fr. Gabriel Lavery, CMRI, to the teaching staff. Ordained two years ago, Fr. Gabriel is the youngest priest-member of our religious congregation. His zeal and abilities are welcome assets, as we seek to fill the gap left by the recent departure of Mr. Tim Duff.

In addition to a few new students from our country, there are several foreign students who have also sought admission to our seminary. The application for government approval is a new experience for us — one we hope will be completed by the time the school year begins at the end of this month. We commend this intention to your prayers. Certainly prayer is the solution to our critical need in the Church for more vocations. It is the only means given us

by Our Lord for obtaining the grace of vocations. ("Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His harvest.") It is indeed encouraging to hear from our readers, many of whom write occasionally to tell us that they pray daily for our seminary and for the major seminary. We depend on your prayers.

All of us — laity and clergy — are in this work together. The training and ordaining of priests is vitally important to every member of the Church. This fact is clearly brought out in the ceremony of ordination to the priesthood. During the ceremony, the bishop addresses the faithful as follows: "As all on a ship, both the captain and the passengers, have the same reasons for confidence or for fear, they should act together with one mind, seeing that their interests are the same."

And so we count on your prayers. Please continue to pray daily for an increase of vocations, for the success of our seminaries and for your priests. We are most grateful for your prayers and financial support, and we remember our benefactors in our daily prayers. Also, since the beginning of our

seminary, the monthly Mass for benefactors — a sacred obligation of ours — has never been omitted. God will certainly reward you for your support, without which we could not continue this work. *Spes Messis in Semine.*

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.



One of the blessings for priests is that they have Mass every day — even on vacation.

