



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

November 2005

October has been a beautiful month at the seminary. The weather the past few weeks has been warm with a few days of rain — perfect fall weather. We have particularly enjoyed playing football outside and have had a few games against other schools.

Recently, we celebrated the feast of Christ the King with a High Mass with incense, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. After Mass and breakfast we renewed the enthronement of our seminary to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Now we turn our attention to assisting the Poor Souls suffering in purgatory. We are currently reading for our table reading the small booklet Read Me or Rue It, by E.D.M. This booklet has helped us to understand the importance of helping the Poor Souls. If we relieve them of their sufferings, they will never forget us. By assisting them we will gain powerful intercessors who will help us get to heaven. One day we may share their plight and be in need of suffrages, so let us do all we can now to help the Poor Souls and live in such a manner that we will not have to go to purgatory.

November and the liturgy

by Caleb Short, gr. 10

November has — like most of the other months — many interesting feasts. It starts out with the feast of All Saints. Pope Boniface IV instituted this feast in the year 610. It was brought about when the Pantheon, a pagan temple in Rome, was converted into a Catholic church and the relics of many saints were placed inside. It was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary

and all of the martyrs. They then celebrated the feast of All Saints annually in Rome, and finally Pope Gregory IV extended this feast to the whole Catholic Church.

The feast of All Saints is followed immediately by All Souls' Day. It is not known exactly when this liturgical commemoration was introduced. Tertullian (AD 160) wrote that the early Christians had an annual commemoration of the faithful departed. Pope John XIX confirmed that this observance should be held annually on the 2nd of November. It is only fitting that, after having rejoiced at the glory of the Church Triumphant in heaven, we should spend time praying for the Church Suffering in purgatory.

Then, on November 9, we have the Dedication of the Basilica of Our Savior. The Basilica of Our Savior is the oldest of the patriarchal churches in Rome. It used to be Constantine's palace but he donated it to the Pope. The basilica that is there now was built on the original location and is called St. John Lateran, as it was dedicated to St. John the Baptist.

The Presentation of Our Blessed Mother is November 21. At the age of three, Mary was offered to God in the temple by her parents, St. Joachim and St. Anne, and she consecrated herself forever to God's service. Mary's parents, says tradition, vowed to offer the child that God would give them to His service in the temple.

November calendar

- 1 — All Saints' Day; Holyday — no school; seminary outing
- 2 — All Souls' Day; special observance for the Poor Souls
- 13 — Giovanni's 14th birthday
- 21 — Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary; chanted Vespers
- 23 — Thanksgiving Break begins after classes
- 27 — First Sunday of Advent
- 28 — Regular classes resume

Our most difficult part of the day

by Alex Odom, gr. 9

We seminarians here at St. Joseph Seminary have many hardships to endure during the course of the day, but none of them come within a million miles of the one I am about to explain. It is dreaded by all of us. Even those of

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Fr. Gabriel Lavery, CMRI, one of our teachers, made his final profession of vows on October 8th.

Our most difficult part of the day

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you who are reading this probably dread this part of the day. This misery is, well, let me write about it and keep you guessing.

It anguishes even the strongest of us. We all are put through this horrible ordeal every day and there is absolutely no escaping it. Even though it is a daily routine for us, we shall never, even in our future years as adults, get used to it. It places fear in our hearts just to think about it. It gives me a heartache to write about it, so I'm just going to tell you.

This, this thing, this horrendously terrible and most sorrowful thing is, no, not Latin class. It is: WAKING UP! Yes, this excruciatingly painful daily occurrence that all seminarians fear most with all their hearts is, I repeat, WAKING UP. But, even though we all, I'm sure, have waking-up phobia, we do offer it up for the greater honor and glory of God. Just think of all the purgatory time that is being wiped away from our souls, when we get up courageously each morning. I think the person who can offer this up for the love of God will surely have years of purgatory removed.

So, good luck on waking up each morning. Perhaps we can wipe out all our purgatory time and help the Holy Souls by bearing this penance for the love of God.

Enter the mole

by Chris Strain, gr. 12

Digging is truly an art form. I say this as an experienced individual in the field of digging. I've dug small holes for trees and large holes for concrete piers. Throughout my experience I've noticed that there are two classifications of diggers — big scoopers and little scoopers. The big scoopers will take one huge scoop after another. On the other hand the little scoopers will only take a small scoop and then after two or three of these, they'll put their shovel in the ground, shake their head, act like they're winded and try to pass the time of day with a passer-by or with a big scooper with whom they happen to be digging. This can sometimes end in a calm rebuke, but more often than not it ends in a fight. These fights, however, can sometimes be fun if they deal with mud-washes or mudball fights. In the long run, though, you can learn a lot about people just by watching them dig or by digging with them. I think I speak for all when I say that this is very annoying and very trying to one's patience.

Recently, however, we've been doing some work at the Seminary that involved digging a narrow trench along the side of the building. It wasn't all that bad, even though at the start it was very muddy. Believe me, there is no worse sound than a sluuurrrp! which is usually followed by a splat as you're covered head to toe in mud. As you can tell, I was part of the digging crew.

At one point, Brandon and I also got to operate a track hoe. This was awesome! It was especially fun to yell when one of us got too close to the building. Even though this was a short-lived event it was probably the highlight of the entire job. Most of the credit should go to Mr. Cooper and the two Mexican Seminarians José and Giovanni. They worked a couple of Saturdays and really were responsible for its completion. Oh, and I'm proud to say that of the three or four of us that worked on it, none of us were little scoopers.

An historical event

by Gerard Odom, gr. 10

Here at the seminary, we have many classes. Most of them we dread with an indescribable horror. Some of them we barely manage to get through. There are still others that, you might say, we look forward to. But it is a known fact, on which we all agree, that without PE, we seminarians would decrease into a state of the darkest depression and die of broken hearts. Okay, maybe school isn't that bad, but on some days, it can seem that way. However, PE comes with its horrors as well. There is flag football, which inevitably turns into "tackle football on rock solid asphalt." There is dodge ball, which is never good news for anyone who is short. And then there's *The Lap*.

When most people hear the word "lap" they think of running in an enclosed area about three or four times. The people are dead wrong! Our lap consists of running almost entirely uphill, running down a sixty-foot vertical incline, and staying out of on-coming traffic the whole time! However, there only seems to be on-coming traffic once every two or three weeks, so we don't have much of a problem there. Our lap is a cross-country mile, which might as well be a trans-Pacific voyage!

It usually takes the average runner about ten minutes to run the whole lap, provided he is in excellent running condition, has a good wind behind him, and can run a whole mile without blowing one of his lungs! None of us meets these qualifications. In fact it takes some of us nearly twice as long to run the lap: we ride the wind across the finish line, and then we pick up our lungs halfway down the road where they landed after they burst through our rib cages!

When it comes to running our lap, we are slower than molasses in January! Trying to catch our breath when we are finished is like trying to catch a pin that's dropped from a passing airliner! Although we look forward to PE, it's safe to say that we dread running our lap more than anything else in the entire school day!

But on October 19, 2005, the seminary saw a day that all of us thought would never come. It was a day that will be remembered for the rest of our lives. If not, then at least until the end of the quarter. It will be forever known as the day Fr. Gabriel let us skip our lap. When such a glorious event as

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The seminarians offer Fr. Gabriel their congratulations after the vows ceremony.



The seminarians spend a good deal of time every evening doing homework in their rooms.



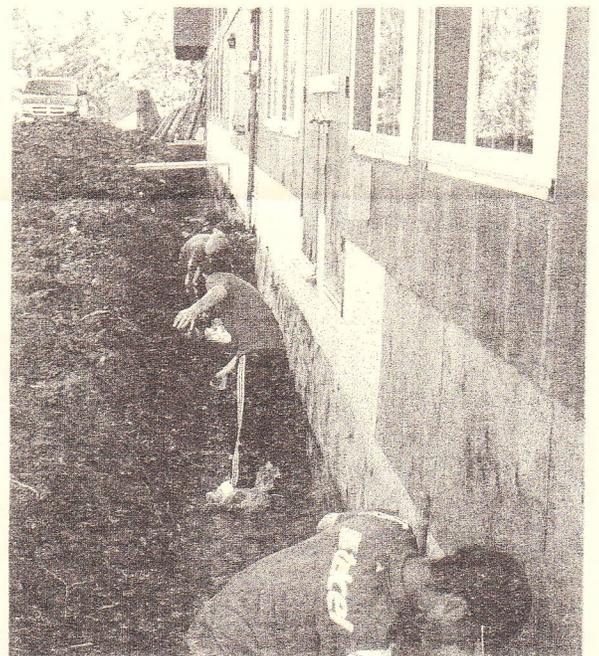
A member of our sodality advances in the ceremony on October 13.



Finally, our pool table was leveled and the felt was repaired.



October has provided perfect weather for flag football.



Digging the ditch to repair the drainage was hard work.

Historical event

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this occurs, one has to stop and enjoy the beauty of it. O glorious day! Would that it could be that way forever! Heck, would that it could be that way for the rest of the week! But, knowing the way that the seminary is run, an event like this occurs once in a Titanium Moon. In other words, it'll probably never happen again!

Skipping our lap is such a big deal because once Fr. Gabriel bends to the will of his students and lets them skip their daily exercise, the event becomes so monumental that all of the seminarians must stop and pinch themselves to make sure that they're not dreaming! When Fr. Gabriel, or any teacher for that matter does something of that magnitude, the event becomes a school-wide holiday. For this reason, we seminarians have decreed that October 19 of every year be specially kept in memory of a tough-as-nails teacher who gave his students a break from the thing that they feared the most: running the lap!

Futbol Americano

by Brandon Odom, gr. 11

Lately at St. Joseph Seminary we have been focusing all our PE time on flag football. It has been a seminary tradition the past several years, and I'm sure that you have heard about our games in the past. This year was no different. The only thing is that all our talent lies in other sports. For example, we have a few seminarians that are exceptional in soccer, some that prefer basketball, and some that have developed an impressive skill at ping-pong. With all these differences we have still managed to piece together a football team.

After learning the basic rules — this was rather difficult for the Spanish-speaking seminarians — and picking teams, we started practicing, and quickly discovered that we needed a lot of work. Everyone knew how to go out for a pass or rush the quarterback, but none knew how to block or catch. So we figured out who was the best for each position and worked up from there. We spent several weeks practicing, and everyone seems to enjoy the sport. We have gotten infinitely better but are still in need of some practice to compensate for our obvious weak spots, such as size. Excluding Chris, most of

the seminarians and junior high students are still in the growing stages.

This fact was the main reason we lost our first pair of games. Our defense seemed to be all right, but on offense we had trouble guarding. This can easily be fixed with some more practice, which we intend to continue. We already have more games scheduled to cover the rest of this month and we hope that we can win a few.

The perfect invitation

Every night at dinner our lector for the week reads a chapter of Holy Scripture. As we are currently reading the Gospel of St. Matthew, we recently covered the 25th chapter, which includes a fascinating account of judgment. Our Lord paints a vivid picture of the General Judgment, in which one's place is determined by whether or not he practiced the Works of Mercy. The damned are placed on His left-hand side and hear the frightening words "Depart from Me," because they failed in their lifetime to practice the Works of Mercy.

Can you list the seven Corporal and seven Spiritual Works of Mercy? We should be able to run through the list by heart, because we cannot practice what we do not know. Most Catholics can rattle off the Corporal Works of Mercy fairly easily but haven't a clue when it comes to the Spiritual Works. But these are the most important. A good practice would be to make an effort to perform one of these works each day, completing all of them in a week.

On this subject, St. Francis de Sales tells us that if we offer suffrages for the Poor Souls in purgatory, we fulfill all of the works of mercy — corporal and spiritual — at once. Perhaps that is because the Poor Souls have no other needs, than to be relieved of their sufferings that they might the sooner enjoy the Beatific Vision. Let us, during this month, be resolved to do all that we can for these poor souls, for one day we may be in their position. And by so doing, we practice those precious Works of Mercy, which will merit those blessed words, "Come ye blessed of my Father, into the Kingdom prepared for you." God grant that all of us may merit to one day receive such an invitation!

We thank you for your support and especially your prayers. May Our Lord and Our Blessed Mother bless you and your loved ones.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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