

THE GUARDIAN

Vol. VII, No. 10

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

June 2006

As we write the articles for this newsletter, we are just a week or so away from the end of the school year. The past year has gone by very quickly, it seems. Two of our students will graduate, and all of us will soon depart for summer vacation.

The month of May has certainly been a busy one. A heat wave lasting for a week, the seniors gone on their class trip, the temporary loss of water, plenty of rain, and our daily devotions to Our Blessed Mother have all filled this month with memories that will last a long time.

Now, all we have left are a few assignments, our final exams, and the concluding activities of graduation and presentation of awards. We thank all of you for reading our articles, and we hope that you will have a good summer. Please also pray for us, as we leave the seminary for our summer vacation.

A little cross

by Giovanni Ortiz, gr. 9

Have you ever broken a bone? I hope not, because it is painful and uncomfortable and you can't move very easily. I say this because I suffered one of these injuries on the 27th of April.

Everything started after we went to a park close to the seminary. We three Mexicans were teaching the other seminarians how to play soccer, because for them it is a new game with different rules than American football. We arrived at the park and picked teams. The game started and some players had problems kicking the ball, because when they kicked the ball it went in every direction except toward the goal. It was not long, however, before some

of them learned how to play well. By then Jose's team was winning by many points because he's a very good player.

Near the end of the game I was running with the ball to make a goal, but another seminarian was in front of me and we were fighting for the ball. He put his foot between my feet and we both fell to the ground. He hit his nose, but I fell with all my weight on my shoulder and heard a noise, an ugly sound. After I fell I could not get up, and I told everyone that I had broken my shoulder, but they did not believe me. They thought that I had a simple fall and did not break any bones, but I could no longer play. We ended the game and returned to the seminary.

When we arrived here the seminarians got some ice and put it on my shoulder, and I went to take a rest. That night the pain was intense, and Father told me that he would take me to see the doctor the next day. The doctor told us that my shoulder was broken and I needed to rest my shoulder for two weeks and protect it with a sling. When the two weeks were up we went back to the doctor, and he told me that I should use the sling for 10 more days and that I

June calendar

- 1-2 — Final exams
- 3 — Senior graduation
- 6 — Last day of school and awards ceremony
- 21-24 — Men's retreat at St. Joseph Seminary

could not play any games for the last month of school.

All this means that you should be careful when you are playing in any sport because everything happens in a few seconds.

Where's all the water?

by Caleb Short, gr. 10

We all know what happens 99.99% of the time when we turn on the faucet. Water comes out. But what happens when that 00.01% comes around? Well, a number of things. First, you become dehydrated. Second, you surrender taking showers and washing hands. Third, flushing toilets becomes rather difficult.

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When we posed for this group picture, we found that our dog Bosco is camera-shy. He absolutely refused to be in the picture.

Where's all the water?

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Yes, our well stopped working; so did the faucets, the showers, and the toilets. This shocking occurrence slightly altered our usual routine (only for a day and a half), so I think it is worth writing about.

I've been told that the pump house, which is further up the hill (or mountain, if you prefer to call it that), was put out of its misery probably by lightning. Then we painfully watched the water pressure diminish into oblivion. Then the "fun" part came. Someone donated some large cans full of water. We had to carry buckets of water upstairs to flush the toilets. We no longer were able to wash our hands as easily as before. Fortunately, we didn't experience death by dehydration, thanks to all those kind parishioners who brought up drinking water for us.

Then that wonderful day finally came on which the pump was fixed. I never thought that washing my hands could feel so good. We were finally able to get back to our normal lives.

There was one good thing that resulted from this — as all the seminarians would agree. We weren't able to wash our dishes ☺. We got to use disposable plates and silverware. Okay, there's actually another good thing, which is that we now actually appreciate all the water that comes out of our faucets. As the saying goes: "You never appreciate what you have until you don't have it anymore."

A memorable trip

by Chris Strain, gr. 12

Like seniors usually do, we concluded our final year of school with a senior class trip. In the course of this trip, which involved going to Montreal, Quebec, and Boston, we saw many wonderful sights. The most inspiring thing for me, however, was going to Boston.

We met a lot of very nice people in Boston, including two nuns from Mt. St. Michael who are there on a mission. They have a little religious goods shop, and they do much good for the faithful Catholics there, who have it very hard when it comes to getting to a true Mass. Taking this trip helped me appreciate more perfectly the joy of having daily Mass. These people try very hard, yet they only have Mass once in awhile.

We also enjoyed seeing all the beautiful artwork put into the churches that we visited. In one church the main altar had *Kyrie Eleison* and *Christe Eleison* engraved in marble on either side of the tabernacle. Some of the churches had beautiful statues of angels, covered in gold and kneeling toward the altar or tabernacle.

Many of the churches have been closed down due to the lack of priests. We went into one church which had been administered by Vatican II priests, but which was now being shut down. The people didn't want this, though, and since they had the deed, they just took it over. Many of the people's ancestors had donated statues, stained glass windows and

vestments to the church. Unfortunately, their protest was done more out of attachment to the church rather than the Mass, which Father said is a big problem since the New Church.

The faithful Catholics in Boston try very hard, and that's what touched me a lot. We also stayed with a family who gave us dinner and let us stay for 2 nights while we were in the area. They have four children, and so Brandon and I played some games with them. The trip was enjoyable and inspiring, as well as memorable; one that I won't forget.

Strong soldiers and perfect Christians

by Alex Odom, gr. 9

In a few days, Confirmation will be administered at our church. His Excellency will come and offer Mass and afterwards, the ceremonies will take place. These ceremonies consist of a few prayers, the anointing with Holy Chrism, and a slight blow on the cheek. But there is more to the sacrament than just the ceremony.

"Confirmation is the sacrament by which the Holy Ghost comes to us in a special way and enables us to profess our Faith as strong and perfect Christians and soldiers of Jesus Christ." The word confirmation comes from the Latin word *confirmo*, which means "to strengthen." In this sacrament we are strengthened by the grace of the Holy Ghost, who helps us to remain firm in our Faith. Even though we may not feel different after receiving this sacrament, we are spiritually more mature. This is what is meant by becoming strong and perfect Christians. We have gained the courage and strength needed to become soldiers in the army of Christ and to help our fellow men by defending our Faith.

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St. Joseph Seminary presents our first

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(for boys ages 9–18)

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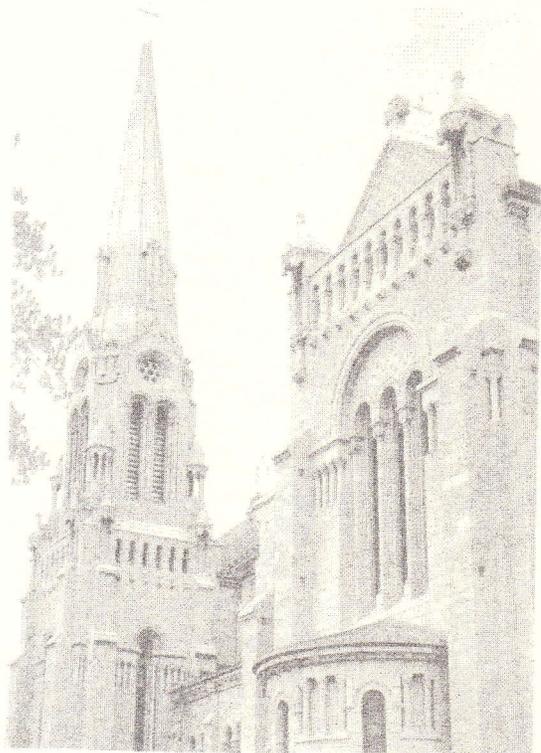
At the seminary, we crown Our Lady's statue daily during May.



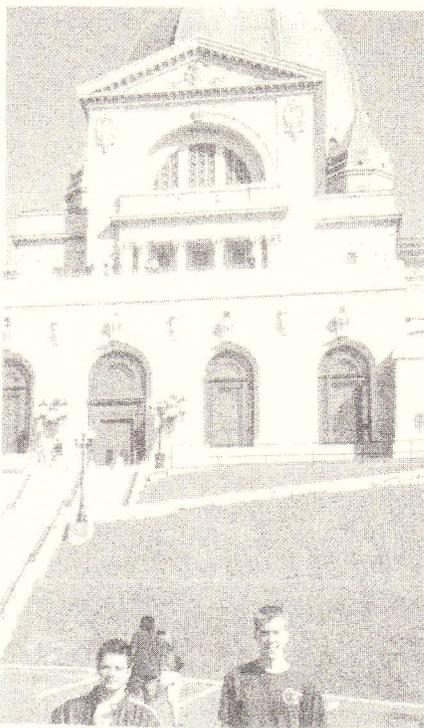
Brandon and Chris were privileged with daily Mass during their senior trip. Here they pose with Father after Mass at the Sisters' convent in Boston.



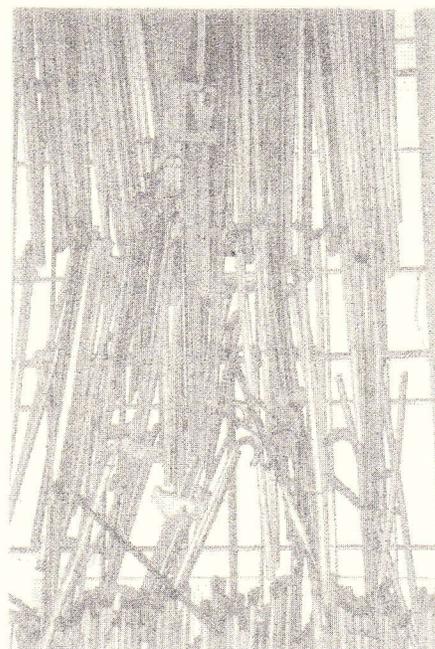
While in north Boston, we stopped to visit the Sisters' bookstore.



The Basilica of St. Anne de Beaupré in Quebec was another destination on our senior trip.



Chris and Brandon stand in front of the Oratory of St. Joseph in Montreal.



Chris and Brandon were particularly impressed with all the crutches left by people who have been cured through the intercession of St. Joseph.

Strong soldiers

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When we are confirmed, we receive a slight blow to the cheek from the Bishop. This represents the trials and sorrows we must be willing to suffer for Our Lord, even if we must suffer death. Like a soldier who would do anything to protect king and country, so must we feel ready to defend our Faith and fight for Christ, our King. The apostles, after Pentecost, went out into the world and preached, fearing nothing, because the Holy Ghost strengthened them. They were ready to suffer the most painful tortures. That is how we should be. We should have a love for God, and a firm knowledge of our Faith.

I hope that this has helped you in your fight against the devil, and I hope that all of you will be strong soldiers and perfect Christians for Our Lord.

A lot of heat and a little water

by José Castellanos, gr. 9

I come from a very big city that gets very hot so I am used to warm weather. But I want to tell you that I have been very surprised, here in Idaho, because when I first arrived it was so very cold and now it is very hot. Another surprise is that the change came in so short a time that the heat here seems hotter than in Mexico.

Every day we run a mile in PE. We get all sweaty, then we play basketball. I find it difficult to study in the evening, so I do my homework right after PE. After dinner I go with Omar and Giovanni to play on the swings, but at that time of the evening there is a big problem with mosquitoes. We have learned that if we swing fast the mosquitoes can't bite us, but if we stop, the mosquitoes are quick to bite us. You can get so many bites that you look like you have the measles.

Recently, when Fr. Benedict was away on mission, we had a problem with the water system. On the first day there was no water at all. We could not shower, even though we were all sweaty after PE. The elementary school was cancelled for the next day, but we had school because Fr. Gabriel took the pickup to our neighbor's house and got hundreds of gallons of water in large barrels. The water problem was fixed on the next day, but the water was slow in coming and, again, we

could not shower. Finally, on the third day we could finally shower. We learned to appreciate how important water is in our lives.

Words of wisdom

At the seminary we have table reading during some of the meals, that we might feed our souls as we nourish our bodies. These books are a source of inspiration and teach lessons that remain with us for a long time. To this day, I recall certain readings from my time as a seminarian.

Our current reading is from the life of the holy Curé of Ars. St. Jean Marie Vianney is the patron saint of parish priests. Despite his struggles in the seminary, he affected thousands of souls by his holiness. Even priests and bishops came to him for counsel.

One such priest had been a seminary professor for many years but yearned for the silence and peace of the monastic life. He consulted the saint, who told him to remain at his post. Several years later, he returned to the holy Curé, as he had been transferred to a Catholic high school. He evidently found his new post to be filled with even more distractions, and he craved even more the seclusion of the monastic life. Far from giving him permission to leave his post, however, the saintly confessor told him: "The most beautiful task anyone can perform in the century in which we live is the Christian education of youth."

As the summer approaches, we all find ourselves fatigued from the school year. Both students and teachers are in need of a break. It is especially at such times, as we look back over the concluding school year, that we must remind ourselves of the value of Catholic education. If St. Jean Marie Vianney said those words in the early 19th Century, would he say anything different today? It seems to me that the work of Catholic education is even more indispensable in our own century.

I once again wish to thank all of you who make this work of the seminary possible, by your prayers and contributions. Without your support, we could not maintain our seminary. You all have a daily remembrance in our prayers and Masses. May God abundantly reward you for your charity, and may you all enjoy a restful summer.

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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