



# THE GUARDIAN

**R**ain, rain and more rain. November has been a rainy month, and we are glad whenever we see the sun. We are also glad that the gym is now available, and so basketball practices have started. (During the first couple months of school the gym was being used for storage and construction, so we had our recreation outside.) After our first practice, we realize how much we have to work on to get ready to compete with other schools!

The slow work of painting the chapel has also been completed. Right now the new flooring is being installed, and we expect to start having Masses again in our own chapel in a couple weeks. It is not that we mind walking the short distance over to the church, but with snow coming and colder weather, it sure is nice to just go down the hall to the chapel. We also are anxious to once again have the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in our chapel, and that is the greatest blessing of all.

The brief Thanksgiving vacation was a welcome reprieve from our school work. The day began with our first good snowfall, followed by several more inches of snow that night. We also had a talent show, which included our own homemade movie. Later, we enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner with our friends, the Odom family. Now it's back to school for the final few weeks before Christmas vacation.

We pray that all of you have a good Advent and that we all prepare well for Christmas. Please continue to pray for us, that we cooperate with God's graces. We will continue to pray for you.

## The Blessed Virgin of Guadalupe

*by Angel Bryan Gamboa, gr. 9*

**T**he 12<sup>th</sup> day of December is a significant day for me and for all the Mexicans, because it is the feastday of the Blessed Virgin of Guadalupe. Approximately 500 years ago she appeared to Juan Diego in the place that is now the Basilica of Guadalupe, in Mexico City.

History says that the Virgin appeared to Juan Diego and told him that he had to tell the bishop that she wanted a church on the hill of Tepeyac. But Juan Diego had an uncle who was very sick, and he told her that he could not do it at that moment. The Virgin answered him that he did not have to worry for his uncle.

When Juan Diego told the bishop, the bishop did not believe him. So he went back and told this to the Virgin. She then told him to go and cut some roses from the hillside and show them to the bishop and clerics. Juan Diego was confused because at that time the weather was too cold for there to be roses. But, in his obedience, he went to where the Virgin told him and found a bush full of roses.

After Juan Diego cut the roses, he went to the bishop and clerics to show them. When they saw the roses, they also saw the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on his tilma. They immediately fell to their knees to venerate this sacred image. Then the

### December calendar

- 3 — Beginning of the Advent Season; special Advent observances in the seminary
- 4 — First basketball game
- 5 — Basketball game
- 7 — Mid-quarter
- 8 — Immaculate Conception BVM; Holyday of Obligation; Day of Recollection
- 12 — Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe; High Mass; Basketball game; no homework
- 15 — Basketball game
- 18 — Basketball game
- 20 — Christmas vacation begins after classes

bishop ordered the church of Guadalupe to be built.

Today, thousands of pilgrims visit the shrine from all over the world. The Virgin of Guadalupe is considered the Queen of Mexico and of the whole world. Her image is especially venerated by the Mexican people.



*At the seminary every day begins with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.*

## The case of Galileo Galilei, Part II

by Fr. Gabriel Lavery, CMRI

In the last issue of our newsletter, we printed the first part of Fr. Lavery's article on Galileo. Here we continue that article.

The Copernican theory (heliocentrism) was freely taught in the Italian universities, and in 1533 Albert Widmanstadt lectured on it before Pope Clement VII. The popes were well aware of this teaching and in no way opposed it. Many other Catholics also began to teach it. The first opposition came from the Protestants, including Luther, Melancthon, and Calvin who were violently opposed to it. Luther called Copernicus a *madman* because, as Luther said, Josue in the Old Testament stopped the sun and not the earth. Johannes Kepler, a contemporary of Galileo, wrote a work supporting the Copernican theory. In 1596, the Protestant faculty of the University of Tübingen *unanimously* condemned Kepler's book as *damnably heresy*, because they believed it was contrary to Scripture. As a result he had to flee his country. He went to the Jesuits and was given a teaching position on astronomy in a Catholic university by the *pope himself* (Cf. *Christian Apologetics*, Devivier, trans. Sasia, Vol. II, p. 281 ff.; also Cf. *The Church and Science*, Windle, p. 28).

Lord Francis Bacon, hailed by Protestants as the Father of Modern Science, was also skeptical of heliocentrism. Descartes was no different. Tycho Brahe, a Lutheran astronomer who was a very careful observer, also rejected the Copernican system (Cf. Devivier, p. 281).

Galileo became renowned because of his discoveries using a telescope. In 1611, he traveled to Rome and was enthusiastically received and befriended by many cardinals and other clerics including Cardinal Robert Bellarmine, who had the opportunity to look through Galileo's telescope during a banquet held in honor of the astronomer (Cf. Brodrick, p. 342 ff.). Galileo had a long private audience with Pope Paul V who assured him of his good will (Cf. Brodrick, p. 342). Cardinal del Monte wrote to the Grand Duke of Tuscany: "During his stay here Galileo has given the greatest satisfaction. . . . I verily believe that were we living under the ancient Roman republic, a column would have been erected on the Capitol in his honour." And Galileo wrote: "Everybody is showing me wonderful kindness, especially the Jesuit Fathers" (Cf. Brodrick, p. 346).

After all this honor, what could have resulted in such serious trouble just five years later? We shall see in the next issue of *The Guardian*.

## Adventus Christi

by Caleb Short, gr. 11

People are shopping. Others are decorating like mad. Children are drooling over all the presents under the tree, and yet everyone is forgetting something. They are forgetting the most important thing about the special day that they wait

for. Some may not even have a clue of what the day is really about. How sad! Why should it be surprising that it is not politically correct to say Christmas? Society wants to take Christ out of our lives. What must we do to avoid this terrible black hole of Satan? Well, that is what Advent is for.

Advent consists of the four weeks before Christmas. The four weeks symbolize the approximate four thousand years that the world waited for the Messiah. While we wait for Christmas, we are also preparing for it by cleaning our souls up and making reparation.

Here at the seminary we try to work the idea of penance into our daily routine. Instead of singing the *Salve Regina* after night prayers, we sing the *Alma Redemptoris Mater*, starting with the first week of Advent. Besides that, we all take upon ourselves some penances. These we write out and put in an envelope and on Christmas we place them in front of the figure of the Christ Child. I have found that sometimes the simplest things can be the hardest sacrifices to do. Also, we come up with a list of sacrifices and put them in a bowl. Every morning everyone picks one and does it for that day.

That is the nice thing about being here at the seminary. Away from the nasty influence of the world, we are able to focus our energy more towards the things of God. We don't have to hear the people shopping, others decorating, and . . . well, you know.

## The first snow

by Juan Fernando Garcia, gr. 9

In the little time that I have been here, I have spent it very well with my classmates and the people around me.

A short time ago, I saw the first snow at the seminary. I had never seen it before and it was surprising. I never imagined that it would snow. I liked very much to see how the snow was falling down, and I went outside with José, Gio, Caleb and Angel and we made snowballs. We enjoyed it even though there was not enough snow to last into the next day.

After two days, it started to snow again and this time there was enough snow and we invented new games to play. We made a snowman in front of the seminary and in the back yard. Angel and I made a big ball, but then it was destroyed. So we made another, bigger one.

Every day it gets colder, and I am not used to it. Where I come from it is hot.

We need to thank God because he gave us the snow. We enjoy it and play in it. He also wants us, in companionship with Him, to give thanks and to contemplate all the graces that He has given us.

## Do people change?

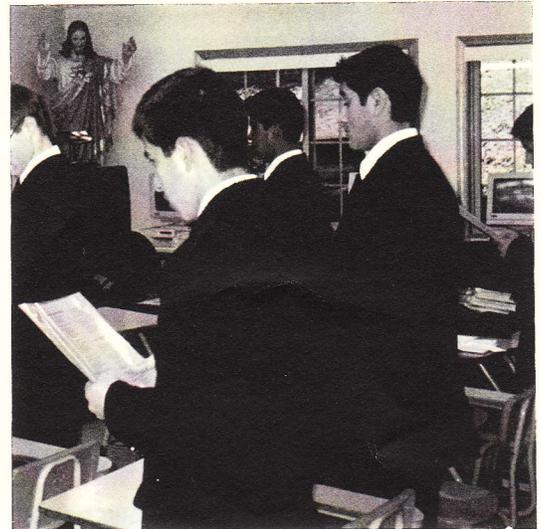
by Giovanni Ortiz, gr. 10

It has been one and a half years since I came here to the seminary. I did not know that I could change so much.

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*Each seminarian serves Mass at least once a week.*



*At the seminary every class begins with a prayer.*



*Several seminarians practice for a scene in their movie.*



*Our two new Mexican seminarians are enjoying snow for the first time in their lives.*



*Mr. Mark Vincent prepares to put down the new flooring in our seminary chapel.*



*The children of our parish school honored their favorite saints in the annual All Saints celebration.*

## Do people change?

*continued from page 2*

Recently, we got our school pictures and someone told me that I look very different from last year. Later, I compared a picture from last year and one from this year and I realized that it was true that I look older.

That day I was thinking that I had changed exteriorly, and what about interiorly? I did change because I remember that when I arrived here, I was younger. I was also shy, uncomfortable, and unfamiliar with the things that I had to do. I also didn't know anything about English. So when we wrote our first *Guardian* articles, Mrs. Salgado had a hard time understanding and translating them. But now, I help her in translating Juan and Bryan's *Guardian* articles.

But besides all these changes, I think that we need to change more within our heart, trying to love more Our Lord Jesus Christ and especially our Blessed Mother Mary. One of the forms by which we can do this is to pray devoutly the Holy Rosary every day and to receive Holy Communion every day — especially this month which is the month of the Divine Infancy.

## Fun doing chores at the seminary

*by José de Jesus Castellanos, gr. 10*

**W**e have fun doing chores at this time of year. Recently, we went to help cut some trees for firewood. Fr. Benedict and Mr. LeStage were the ones using the chain saws, and we were throwing the logs into the truck. After the trucks were full, we drove back to the seminary to unload, split and stack the wood. While some of us were working on the firewood for the winter, others were picking apples, taking wood to the convent and to the seminary or just cleaning the seminary.

I want to say more about picking apples, because that is a big chore this time of the year. (We have about a dozen apple trees.) Some seminarians are up in the trees picking the apples, while others catch them and put them into boxes. Sometimes when there are too many apples and we don't have a lot of time, we shake the trees to get them all down. When the apples fall down, we have to work quickly to put them all

in boxes. Because if we don't get the apples right away when they fall, the cars go by and squash them.

Here in the seminary we use the apples in many ways. Fr. Gabriel uses many of them for apple cider, Sr. Paulina makes apple sauce and apple butter, and Caleb made an apple pie. Of course, we also eat the apples just as they are. So, as you can see, fall chores at the seminary are rewarding, and we have fun doing them.

## Without complaint

**D**uring the season of Advent we choose some sacrifices to help us prepare for the birth of Christ into our hearts. Holy Mother Church holds up to us the life of St. John the Baptist as a model in self-denial. But while we practice mortification, let us not fail to perform the best penance of all. And what is that?

The very best penance is to accept the crosses and trials that God sends us, the ones that are not of our own choosing. Sometimes this is very difficult to do, and that is the reason these divinely appointed penances are the most sanctifying. It would be foolish for us to think that we can reject the cross God sends us — or at least bear it poorly — and then make up for that deficit by performing penances of our own choosing. Perhaps one of the most difficult things of all for a good Christian, is to bear one's daily cross with a smile, without complaint.

Our seminarians are a source of edification to me. I can truly say that I never hear them complain about anything — whether it be the schedule, chores, the amount of homework, lack of time for recreation, the food, lack of sleep, etc. This is no small commendation. But can the same be said about us? Herein is a good Advent resolution that we all would do well to make. May the Divine Infant give us the grace to prepare for His coming by carrying our daily cross, without complaint.

Be assured, dear friends, that we are most grateful for your prayers and your much-needed financial support. Truly, it would be difficult to think of a more important work to support than that of the preparation and training of future priests. May God reward you, and may you and your loved ones enjoy the blessings of the Divine Infant at this time of year.

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*

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