

THE GUARDIAN

Vol. VIII, No. 6

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

February 2007

At the beginning of this year we had a goal — to see if we could go through the entire year with perfect attendance by everyone. (There has not yet been a group of seminarians here that spent the entire year without at least one person missing some school.) The First Quarter went well. Then, in late November, one seminarian missed a half day. But in January, any hopes of a new record were shattered.

Most of the seminarians got sick with a virus of some kind. José, usually the most robust, suffered the most, missing four days of school. Now, however, everyone is well, despite the cold temperatures we have been having.

But cold usually means more snow which we don't mind. Soon, we will have the opportunity to go skiing. (We hope to be able to go skiing at least a couple of times this year.) In the meantime, we do our best with our studies. We also know that Lent is right around the corner. We hope that you all have a good Lent. Please keep praying for us.

Going back to Mexico

by Giovanni Ortiz, gr. 10

To not see one's family for almost 1½ years is kind of tough. Well, recently we had our Christmas vacation, and José and I made the long journey back to Mexico to visit our families. It began on December 20th, when we left the Spokane airport on a trip that took almost 17 hours.

Finally, we arrived in Mexico City. It felt strange to hear and speak Spanish again, because here at the seminary I don't really speak Spanish. I only speak it when someone asks me to translate

something to Juan or Angel. When I got home the first thing that I did was to hug and talk to my parents. Some of my brothers were sleeping already and I did not want to wake them up. I spent time talking to my parents and some of my brothers, telling them about my first international trip, traveling without an adult to accompany me. After I finished telling them about this new experience, we all went to bed. I spent the next few days visiting relatives and friends. Some of them didn't recognize me until I talked to them. They said that I had changed a lot since leaving home.

I also helped Bishop Rodriguez, who had helped to get all my documents to come here, by serving some of his Masses in the little chapel that is close to where I live. I accompanied him on a mission to Puebla where there are many poor people. This place is about five hours from where I live. We distributed food, clothing and other items that were donated to the poor people who live there. The one thing that I will never forget from this trip was to see all the people with the things that we gave them and that everyone was enjoying their gifts.

One other thing I would like to mention has to do with the different customs that we have in Mexico. It is unfortunate that the United States does not have the custom of "posadas". Do you know what it is? Well, we begin by having a procession in which everyone recites the rosary. After the rosary we have Mass, and then all the people, especially the children,

February calendar

- 2 — Candlemas Day; blessing of candles; chanted Vespers
- 3 — Feast of St. Blaise; blessing of throats
- 9 — Ski day
- 21 — Ash Wednesday
- 23 — Mid-quarter
- 27 — Fr. Gabriel's feastday
- 13, 20, 22, 26, 27 — Basketball games

gather together to break some piñatas. Afterwards, everyone has a snack like tamales or a hot, delicious cup of coffee. We do it to represent the nine days in which Mary and Joseph were looking for a place to stay.

I have one more thing to say about this trip — I have to thank a dear friend who paid for our trip to Mexico. And also I want to thank all the benefactors who support us. We always pray for each and every one of you!



Gio visited the cathedral in Mexico City on his recent trip home.

Vacation at the seminary

by Angel B. Gamboa, gr. 9

This vacation I was happy most of the time. Some of the time was a little difficult because I didn't understand all that was said to me. Most of the time I have Giovanni and José translate what people and the priests say to me, but they went to Mexico for vacation. I was forced to try to understand what people were saying to me, and I now think I understand a little more than before vacation.

I had a good Christmas. Matthew and I went to the home of Mr. & Mrs. Slater. We had good food, played with their dog and relaxed in the hot tub.

We also went skiing during vacation, and it was my first time. It was a good and fun experience. Some of the vacation was a bit boring, and I slept and read books. But the times we were with Fr. Gabriel and Fr. Benedict were much better, because I helped Fr. Gabriel, or we played chess and pool. I lost most of the games in chess, but Fr. Benedict told me I am getting better.

On New Year's Eve Matthew and I waited until midnight for 2007. A few days later José and Giovanni arrived and they did me the favor of bringing pictures and presents from my mother, brother and other family members. Juan also returned, on the same day, and Juan brought us souvenirs from Chicago. So we are all here and everything is back to normal. Now we are on our way to having one good year.

The case of Galileo Galilei, Part IV

by Fr. Gabriel Lavery, CMRI

This article is a continuation from a series on Galileo by Fr. Lavery.

The fourth area of concern for Galileo was his disrespect for authority. In Part III of this series we described how inconsiderate Galileo was in regards to his opponents. In his *Dialogues*, written in 1632, he "exhibited the bad taste of attacking those among his opponents who had shown the greatest kindness to him. The Pope in particular thought that he was designated in these dialogues by the ridiculous character Simplicio [Simpleton]" (Devier, p. 282-283).

All of these things made life difficult for Galileo. His enemies tried to get him in trouble with the Holy Office. This trouble came on three separate occasions.

The trouble started in 1615. A letter of Galileo's was sent to the Holy Office, but two words of it had been changed by some enemy of Galileo's. When the letter was examined, these were the only two words that the Holy Office found objectionable! But, even then, nothing was done about it, which shows the caution of the Holy Office.

Galileo's second trouble came in 1616. On December 7, 1615, he was in Rome to 'wage war' on his opponents (Cf. Brodrick, p. 369 ff.). They were not about to sit back while he ridiculed them. Two propositions of Galileo's were submitted

to the Holy Office for examination. On February 24, 1616, the eleven consultors of the Holy Office reported their decision to the cardinals. The first proposition examined stated that the sun was the center of the world and was devoid of motion. This was condemned as "foolish and absurd philosophically, and formally heretical, inasmuch as it expressly contradicts the doctrines of Holy Scripture in many places. . . ." The second proposition was that the earth is *not* the center of the world, but moves. This was condemned as "at least erroneous in the faith."

The eight cardinals of the Holy Office, including St. Robert Bellarmine, did not accept these decisions exactly as they stood (Cf. Brodrick, p. 373). Instead, on March 5, 1616, they issued a decree which did not use the word "heretical" nor did they mention Galileo by name. None of his books was condemned by name or put on the index. The *Book of Revolutions* by Copernicus was condemned, but only until it could be revised to state the heliocentric theory as a *hypothesis*, not as proven fact. Galileo was privately warned to abandon the condemned propositions, though he was apparently not forbidden to teach them as a mere hypothesis (Cf. Brodrick, p. 373 ff.).

On March 11, 1616, Galileo had an audience with Pope Paul V. In a letter written the following day, Galileo says, "I told his Holiness the reason for my coming to Rome . . . and made known to him the malice of my persecutors and some of their calumnies against me. He answered that he was well aware of my uprightness and sincerity of mind, and when I gave evidence of being still somewhat anxious about the future, owing to my fear of being pursued with implacable hate by my enemies, he consoled me and said that I might put away all care, because I was held in so much esteem both by himself and by the whole congregation of cardinals that they would not lightly lend their ears to calumnious reports. During his lifetime, he continued, I might feel quite secure, and before I took my departure he assured me several times that he bore me the greatest goodwill and was ready to show his affection and favour towards me on all occasions" (Favaro, *Opere di Galileo*, n. 1189. Cf. Brodrick, p. 375).

Nevertheless, Galileo's enemies spread a false report about the event. Galileo appealed to Cardinal Bellarmine, who made the following certificate for him, signed May 26, 1616: "We, Robert, Cardinal Bellarmine, having heard that Signor Galileo Galilei has been calumniously reported to have abjured in our hand, and moreover to have been punished with a salutary penance, and having been asked to make known the truth as to this, declare that the said Signor Galileo has not abjured in our hand, nor in the hand of anybody else here in Rome, nor, so far as we are aware, in any place whatever, any opinion or doctrine held by him; neither has any penance, salutary or otherwise, been imposed upon him" (Cf. Brodrick, p. 376).

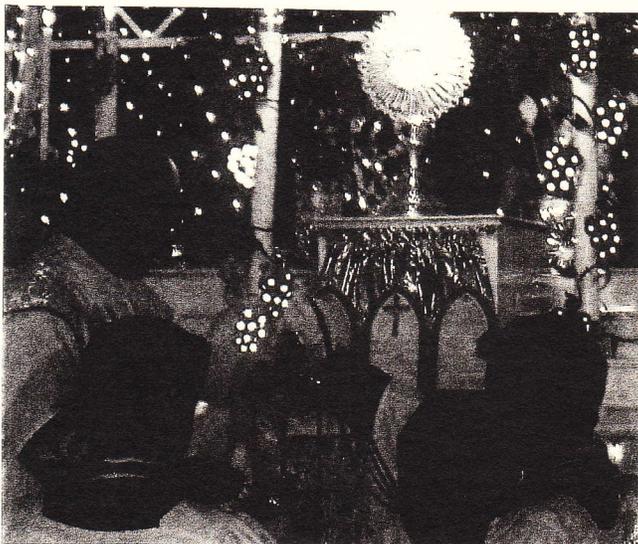
Look for the conclusion of this series of articles on Galileo in next month's issue of The Guardian.



The Sisters prepared quite a banquet for our celebration of the Epiphany.



Everyone enjoyed the opening of our Epiphany gifts.



José and Giovanni had many opportunities, while in Mexico, to serve at Mass and benediction.



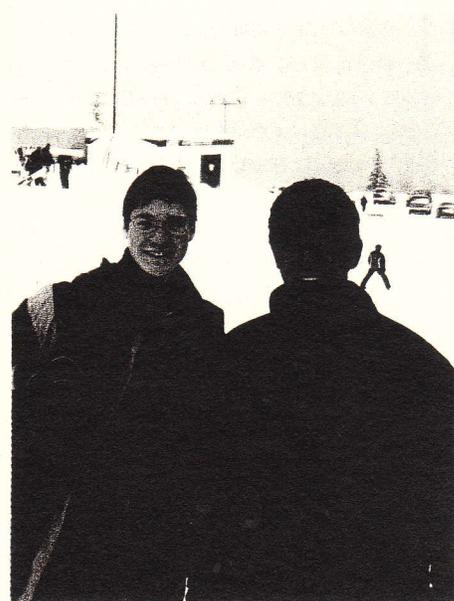
The breaking of a piñata is a big part of Christmas festivities in Mexico.



Giovanni was happy to be back in Mexico!



In December we took a Sunday afternoon trip to Lake Coeur d'Alene to watch the bald eagles.



Matthew and Angel enjoyed their first ski trip.

A little bit of reparation

by Caleb Short, gr. 11

It all began when Adam and Eve committed original sin and were driven out of the Garden of Eden. God told them they would have to work for their sustenance and, among other things, they would get sick. Recently, we experienced this consequence of original sin at the seminary.

Right before we all returned from Christmas vacation, one of the seminarians had to get sick. He then quickly got another seminarian sick, who in turn got almost everyone else sick. If it were not for my being one of those who got sick, I would not be writing this article. Our epidemic only consisted of sore throats and coughing, but it was still annoying.

Now I would like to write a little about the "battle." Some seminarians just keep on eating tons of sugar-loaded food and drinking soda and expect to get well. Fr. Benedict makes those who are really sick take nasty medicine. But Fr. Gabriel has the most interesting way of trying to get well. He takes a glass and puts everything he can find in it. He starts with apple cider vinegar, then adds lemon juice, garlic stuff, the hottest salsa he can find, chili powder, and who knows what else. He calls them "suicide drinks." They smell really bad too! Father let Bosco smell it, and it made the poor dog run away. It makes some of us wonder which is worse being sick or drinking all these interesting things.

Getting sick isn't so bad. What is the pain of getting a little sick compared to committing even a venial sin, which is an infinite offense against God? That's how we can turn all our trials into little comforts, putting up with them in reparation for sin and for love of God.

My trip to Chicago

by Juan Fernando Garcia, gr. 9

In this Christmas vacation I had the opportunity to visit my uncle, aunt and cousins in Chicago. It had been 11 years since I had seen them, and they wanted me to spend time with them. José, Giovanni and I left at dawn for the airport, but they went to Mexico, and I went to Chicago. Their flight left before mine, and then I waited for my flight. It was going to be my first time flying alone, and at first I was a little confused, but Fr. Benedict explained I was to have a stopover in Seattle and how I was to find my next flight. After that it was easy for me.

When I arrived in Chicago the city looked pretty and very big. There was much to see in a little time, and I was not able to see everything my cousins wanted me to see. I liked the aquarium because I saw many fish from the sea that I had never seen before.

I was surprised to find that in the area of the city where my uncle lives there are other people who came from the same part of Mexico as me. I had an enjoyable time in Chicago.

Even just a few

Our seminary here has been in operation now for more than seven years. As I teach and watch these young men mature and progress, I often wonder how many of them will go on to become priests. How many of them will I one day see standing at the altar of God offering Mass? Before how many will I be able to kneel to ask a blessing? It may be just a few, or it may be more than that. At any rate, this work of training young men will be well worth it, even if only a few go on to become priests.

Both Fr. Gabriel and I have mission travels, in addition to our teaching duties. Rarely does a weekend pass in which one of us is not out of town, providing Mass and sacraments for faithful Catholics in other parts of the country. Although this may seem to be a distraction and a burden, it actually is a blessing. Not only are we able to do the important work of a priest, but we are also continually reminded of the need for more priests. This thought motivates us to continue our work of training the priests of tomorrow.

While we need more priests, however, it is also vitally important to remember that we need good and holy priests — priests who are truly deserving of the appellation *alter Christus*. It is far better to have insufficient priests, than to have an abundance of mediocre or even bad priests, who do not live what they are to preach. Such sad examples would lead people astray from God. May God grant us more priests, but may He especially grant us holy priests.

So continue your prayers and support for our seminaries. The attainment of the priesthood is at the end of a long, arduous path. These young men need our continuing prayers and support, that at least some of them may attain the holy priesthood. May God reward your support of us, and may He bless your families.

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.

**St. Joseph Seminary
15384 N. Church Rd.
Rathdrum, ID 83858-7650**