



THE GUARDIAN

Vol. X, No. 11

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

July 2009

The past month has been momentous for all of us at the seminary. On May 30th, our seniors received their diplomas from His Excellency, Bishop Mark Pivarunas. The next week, we enjoyed a camping trip for a few days to Priest Lake. The weather was perfect, and there was almost no one else in the campground, as schools were still in session. That camping trip was an experience that we shall not forget; we hope to have more camping trips in the future!

On the Sunday following the last day of school the annual Corpus Christi procession was held. As some parishioners had been working for months on new arches for the path, the procession was more beautiful than ever. The Blessed Sacrament in the glistening monstrance at the outdoor altar, surrounded by the trees and hills of northern Idaho, is a sight to behold. Most of us were still around to participate in these ceremonies.

Since then we have been working on various summer jobs, especially preparing for the coming Boys' Camp the last week of July. We also have enjoyed the presence of Nino Molina, a former member of our minor seminary from the Philippines who has completed his first year of studies at the major seminary in Omaha. Nino is spending the summer here at St. Joseph Seminary.

We hope that you are all enjoying the summer as much as we are. Thus far, the weather has been cool with periods of rain, but we are looking forward to summer activities as the weather heats up. May God bless you all.

Becoming like Christ

by Angel Bryan Gamboa, gr. 12

Every lover is a giver. Also, every lover is a receiver, and the more he gives the more he receives. Earthly love is inconstant and deceitful. Even if one finds a perfect spouse he must be terrified by the thought of death. This will never happen to one who chooses Mary.

There are three ways by which we may give ourselves entirely to God, but only by one means: Mary. We often hear of the love of Mary but do we grasp it? At times I have wondered and pondered upon how to love someone about whom we know so little. Even if we memorized every word from Scripture concerning Mary, our knowledge of her would still be limited. I have asked myself how did the lovers of Mary come to love and know her so well?

A short time later I learned that the greatest of God's gifts, the Cross, is enough to help us grasp some of the truths of Mary. During our preparation for the renewal of our Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary, I learned one of the greatest lessons of my entire life. I learned that the knowledge of Mary does not come to us by reading, although it is one of the greatest aids to know her. We come to know her by becoming like her. We learn more from her by practicing virtue than we learn by reading all the books written concerning her. She considers every act of ours towards her and rewards them with her

knowledge. She is the most grateful of all creatures and lets no one outdo her in charity and gratitude. We can only learn from her by going to her, praying to her, giving her all the credit of every breath that we take, and by thanking her for every gift that we receive, especially for the greatest of all, the Cross.

No one can love someone whom he does not know. It is only through this knowledge of Mary that we shall come to love her. The more we learn from her the more we shall love her, and the more we love her the more we shall be like her, which is being like Our Lord Himself.

Kayaking on Priest River

by Robert Prado, gr. 12

In the towering mountains of northern Idaho there is a course of water named Priest River. This swift current of water winds through 44 miles of spectacular forests with towering trees and flat flowery meadows where only the deer roam. This wilderness is rarely traveled — the land of the Indians, with the memories of Fr. DeSmet scattered about its wild terrain.

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The bishop and priests joined the graduates for a group photo after Mass.

Kayaking

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We arrived around midday, the skies above us pristine and clear, and the air around us warm and exciting. After donning our gear, which included a wet suit to keep the 50° F. water out, we settled into our kayaks and pushed off onto the river. We all knew this was going to be a great experience.

The water level was high and the river was running very swiftly. Numerous times we paddled around obstacles such as fallen trees that had been dragged into the river by the rising water. Steering around semi-submerged rocks and riding out rough water added more spice to our scenic trip.

The river itself was always bending and winding, growing and thinning as it wound through the mountains. We kept our eyes peeled for all different sorts of wildlife, ranging from bears to turtles; fortunately, we did see some of God's creatures of the wild, such as the swimming fish and the flying eagle.

As I paddled I couldn't help but imagine the early explorers such as Fr. DeSmet traveling the same river and looking at the same unchanged scenery of skyscraping trees atop immense mountains. If there is one thing I love about the wild it is the peacefulness that exists there. No whirring machinery or man-made noise can be heard, only the wind whistling through the trees and the occasional call of a falcon.

Overall, this was a trip to remember, an experience that will not be forgotten, for it is not every day we get to kayak down the stunning Priest River.

An unforgettable adventure

by Forrest Nguyen, gr. 11

Learning that we had a day to spare on Priest Lake, our kayaking guide suggested that we visit the natural granite slides, formed by the river's flow through the granite riverbed. Sliding down river-hewn rock sounded like a lot of fun. The only drawback: they were five miles from pavement on a continuously uphill, single-lane dirt road, which dropped into another mile-and-a-half walkway to the slides themselves. Still, lured by the thought of granite sliding, we planned our spare day around visiting the slides.

After morning Mass, we packed our giant 15-seat van and drove to the slides. We were very optimistic about our trip: no problems — yet. But the moment we reached the end of the pavement and beginning of the dirt road (really more of a "rock road"), our headaches began. For five whole miles, there was constant jerking. Our poor van was getting knocked around, and we inside were hitting our heads on the ceiling. Sequentially, this made our headaches substantially worse.

When we finally arrived at the road's end, our gasoline gauge indicated that we had only an eighth of a tank left. In the middle of the wilderness, the nearest gas station was 38 miles away: we didn't have enough gas to get there. But since we were already at the trail we decided to press on.

To make a long story short, after a mile-and-a-half hike (huffing the whole way), the river was flooded, making it unsafe to slide. We'd come for nothing. Feeling quite dejected, we took a few pictures (smiling but really laughing at our luck) and hiked back to the gasless van.

On our walk back, Fr. Gabriel thought of the best and worst idea to solve our gasoline problem: drive down the rock road in neutral gear. Best: it'd save gas. Worst: it'd give us back our bumpy ride, headaches included, with the addition of racing downhill. From the start, headaches, but we couldn't stop for our heads to regain their composure or we'd lose all our eighth-of-a-tank-saving momentum. Finally, we got to the bottom of the road and drove to the station, hoping we'd have enough fuel left. Ironically, when we got there, we still had an eighth of a tank. I guess going uphill must have altered the meter's reading. So, we went on a granite-sliding trip, didn't granite slide, thought we'd run out of gas, but really didn't, and gained some rocky headaches.

America's martyrs

by Juan Garcia, gr. 12

St. Isaac Jogues is one of the Jesuit American martyrs. He was born in Orleans, France, on January 10, 1607. A few years after his ordination Fr. Jogues was sent to New France (North America) as a missionary. When he arrived he waited in the settlement until the Huron Indians came to take him to the Huron mission where the other Jesuit priests were laboring among the Indians. With great pleasure Fr. Jogues began to do his missionary work. The Hurons had difficulty accepting the teaching of these missionaries; nevertheless, many of them were converted.

On one of his canoe trips, Fr. Jogues and his companions were captured by the Mohawks, the mortal enemy of the Hurons. Some of them were killed, and others were cruelly tortured. Those, including Fr. Jogues, who survived the torture, were kept as slaves. Luckily, he was the slave of an elderly woman who treated him kindly and whom he referred to as "aunt."

After months of slavery the missionary priest escaped and sailed to Europe. He stayed with his family for a time and told them of his adventures. After visiting the Pope and some of his religious friends, he courageously chose to return to his missionary work in America. Fr. Jogues went back to his "aunt's" teepee, and with confidence in God, preached to the Mohawks. They, however, hated him and were determined to kill him.

One day his "aunt" had to attend a council. She was an important person, and the one who provided for the safety of Fr. Jogues. She instructed him to not leave the dwelling. When she was gone an Indian came and invited Fr. Jogues to a feast. The Indians' rule was that if you refused an invitation, you became an enemy for life. Out of courtesy, Fr. Jogues went, but there his crown of martyrdom was waiting for him.

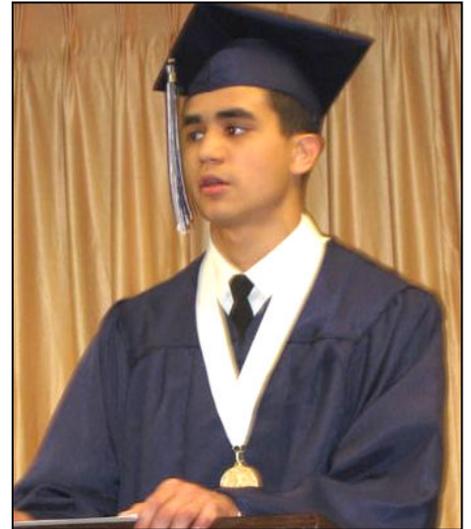
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His Excellency presents Alex with the summa cum laude medal. (All of our seniors graduated with honors.)



The cake tasted as good as it looks!



Marcellus delivers his graduation address.



The weather cooperated for our annual outdoor Corpus Christi procession.



Seminarians prepare to kayak down Priest River.



Robert fords one of the many streams running through our campground on Priest Lake.



The trees around Priest Lake are magnificent works of the Creator.

America's martyrs

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Upon entering the meeting place, a Mohawk split his head with a tomahawk. He died in the evening of October 18, 1646.

It is important to remember and to pray to the missionaries who came to the New World to teach us the true Faith. It is because of their efforts, sufferings, and even martyrdom that we adore the true God and have the true Faith.

A modern martyr for purity

On July 9th we celebrate the feastday of a modern martyr of purity. Maria Goretti was stabbed 14 times by Alessandro Serenelli on July 5, 1902, for not submitting to a sin of impurity. She died the following day after forgiving her assassin.

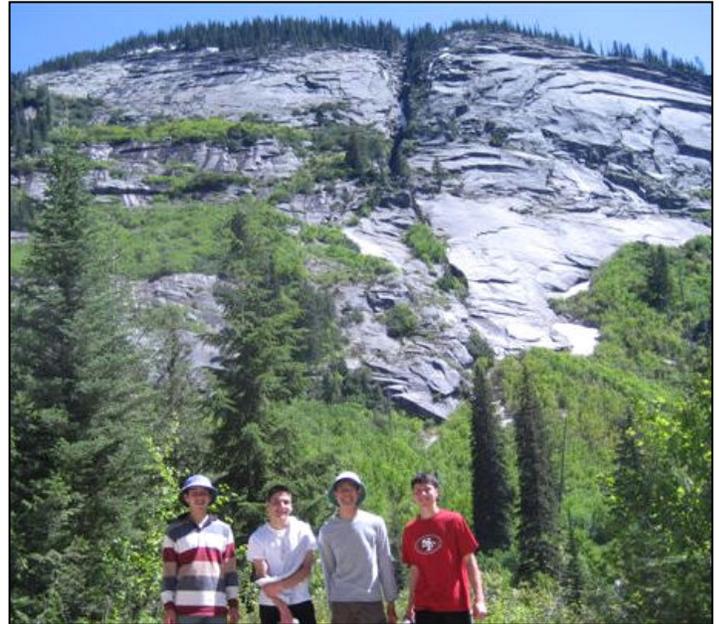
The life and death of this glorious modern martyr remind us of the beauty of the precious treasure of purity, so scorned in this modern world. We also are reminded of the importance of avoiding occasions of sin. Temptation grew in the heart and mind of Alessandro as he read indecent literature and gazed at the lurid pictures in these magazines. Sadly, today such scandalous material is everywhere. Parents cannot be too careful in shielding their children from these occasions of serious sin.

Our Lord warned of the terrible consequences for those who are guilty of robbing a child of the precious treasure of innocence. *"It were better for him if a millstone were hung about his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin"* (Luke 17:2). One shudders at the thought of a child robbed of his or her innocence and introduced to a life of impurity, which all too often becomes an inveterate habit leading one to an eternity of misery, separated from God. Thus, we see the reason for Our Lord's harsh words.

I am convinced that this also explains the lack of vocations in our day. Far too many boys and girls who are being called by God to His service turn a deaf ear to that invitation, once their hearts have become sullied by the degrading vice of impurity. Parents, instill into your children a love for purity and modesty and a horror for the opposing vices. Remove from your homes all sources of evil. Never forget what a precious charge is entrusted to you in the children that God has given to you. He is a jealous God Who wants these

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.



After a good hike we finally made it to the granite slides.

children to spend eternity with Him in heaven. Let us be resolved to do all that we can to shield them from the seductions of evil and to inspire them to strive after virtue, after the example of the wonderful saints whom God has given to us for models.

Again, we thank you for your support for our seminary. Please continue to pray for the success of the seminary. May God reward you abundantly. Be assured of a daily remembrance in our prayers and at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

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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