



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

November 2009

October brought us the Fatima Conference, and along with it some considerably cooler weather. The weather is now more pleasant, as we are busy with cutting and splitting wood, picking apples, playing some flag-football games, and, of course, studying. The First Quarter will soon be over, and we hope that our grade reports will indicate that we have studied diligently.

Now we turn our attention to the Poor Souls. Especially during November we try to gain as many indulgences as we can. We must remember these holy souls, especially because they cannot help themselves. They also are united to us by the bonds of the Mystical Body of Christ. Perhaps one day we will be in their position — suffering in purgatory and hoping that someone will help us. Let us now help them, and then we will not be forgotten.

We will also remember to pray for your departed loved ones and for you, our friends and benefactors. Please also remember to pray for us, that we cooperate with the many graces God is making available to us. May God bless you all.

To Christ through the liturgy

by Angel B. Gamboa, gr. 12

The days, weeks, months and years; Advents, Christmases, Lents and Pentecosts pass by year after year, and our knowledge and love of our Faith grows. People's hair grows white and they grow in wisdom.

A few weeks ago we had a visit from the Fatima Conference guests. They came for their annual visit to the

City of Mary. Cold fingers and noses were the theme. Laughs and conversation filled with joy abounded. Recollection was easily noticeable in some of the guests. Far in a little corner was one of these contemplative ones. Aha! I said to myself. There is one with whom I can speak. I approached. "Hello," I began; "Hi." was the reply. We talked a little about the very much spoken of cold weather. My friend, not complaining but rejoicing, was of the opinion that winter is the herald of Christ's birth.

Feelings of surprise and edification seized me. The answer was completely new to me. It was as rare as a rose in winter, and just as friendly. After everything was over, I wondered and pondered. Winter and Christmas are so close that I became ashamed not to think of cold and winter that way. Having realized that, it just occurred to me that every season of the year has a

special role in the Liturgy. Spring, for example, with its new baby tress and flowers cannot but remind us of the new tender hope which once again fills every child of God with the longing to be with Him in heaven.

After the spiritual refreshment of the priestly conferences, and having been fortunate to serve in the Pontifical Mass,

November calendar

- 1 — All Saints' Day
- 2 — All Souls' Day; special observances for the Poor Souls
- 13-14 — Seminary outing
- 21 — Feast of the Presentation BVM; chanted Vespers
- 25 — Angel's 17th birthday; Seminary Talent Show
- 26-29 — Thanksgiving break; no classes

filled with a new zest, I concluded: Everything in our lives can and must be related in a great or small way with the life of Our Lord through the Liturgy, the Divine worship.



The seminarians carried the statue of Our Lady of Fatima during our procession on the feast of the Most Holy Rosary.

Our neglected friends

by Zachary Odom, gr. 11

What would we do for a friend? A simple question — we would care for that person in any need no matter what the cost. An even greater question: what would we do for the souls in Purgatory? What should we do? Of course, we must pray for these pitiable souls to placate their sufferings. We must offer up our afflictions for them, because they suffer immeasurably more than we do. But do we do this? And if so, how much do we do?

The Poor Souls cannot pray for themselves, but they can pray for us. In their sad plight they think of the more fortunate. What do we do in return? We forget them as if they were a dream; we keep them far from our minds. Why do we do this; are they not our friends? Are they not the closest friends we have aside from Jesus, Mary and the saints? What would we do for a friend?

Undoubtedly, we pray for the Holy Souls, but what we do is very little. How much does a diminutive amount of work accomplish? We are told by the Church to pray for the Holy Souls. We are even given the promise of releasing a soul from Purgatory each time we gain the Toties Quoties (as often as) indulgence from noon of November 1st, to midnight of November 2nd, but still we do not pray for them. We truly are ungrateful friends.

At the end of our time will we find favor with our Master, or will we be cast aside to be forgotten? We must pay recompense for every deed undone, every work unfinished, and every sin uncompensated. So let us make the best of the time we have and pray for these, our Neglected Friends.

Reason to believe

by Forrest Nguyen, gr. 11

Evolution: the subject of heated controversy in an apparent debate between belief in God or in natural selection. From Darwin to Dawkins, evolutionists have striven to separate the Creator from His creatures. Organisms (their preferred term) simply evolved (i.e. adapted) to better survive in their environments, to such an extent that these organisms formed into independent species. Organisms with greater adaptations were naturally selected to survive, because they had a better chance to — no God needed.

Still, the evolutionists cannot “explain away” the necessity of a prime Cause, a Creator of the first creature, for what could have caused the existence of an organism but God? Yet there still are many adherents to this fallacious idea because they genuinely believe it to be scientific. And it is this scientific controversy that Dr. Stephen C. Meyer “explained away” by using science at this year’s Fatima Conference.

As a leader in the Intelligent Design movement (a euphemism of an Intelligent Creator, i.e., God), Dr. Meyer is a creationist. As a philosopher, the bulk of his lecture dealt with a cosmological proof of God’s existence. From Newton to Hubble, astronomy has demonstrated that galaxies and celestial bodies are pulling away from one another — proof of an expanding universe. In scientific retrospect, an expanding

universe must have, at one point, been compressed, i.e. it must have begun expanding from a single point. Since there is a limit to just how small or compressed a point in space can be, this retrospective proof demonstrates the existence of a beginning, a creation.

Dr. Meyer’s book *Signature in the Cell: DNA and Evidence of Intelligent Design*, is, as its title states, cellular evidence concerning the existence of God. From his book to his lecture, he gave references to the cell’s (the smallest unit of living matter) complex, obviously designed micro-mechanisms. In the cell’s mitochondria, thousands of micro-turbines convert organic compounds into electro-mechano-chemical packets of energy called ATP, a dizzying name for a dizzying cellular process. Designed. In certain bacteria (the least complex of all cells), a tail-like flagellum thrusts the bacterium like a propeller, functioning in a similar yet microscopic way. Complexity compressed: Designed.

Thus in an hour’s lecture, Dr. Meyer gave credible scientific evidence of the existence of God. In other words, science supports God’s existence and evolution is not scientific. Then why do so many still adhere to this unscientific theory? In one word: Bias. Evolutionists are reverse-scientific: they force the facts to fit their preconceived opinion: the nonexistence of God. Regardless, we know God exists. Faith tells us. Now with Dr. Meyer and the scientific proofs he gave, reason can tell us too.

Marian traditions

by Juan Garcia, gr. 12

During the Fatima Conference, we had a candlelight Rosary procession. This was the first one I attended. We modeled our procession on the candlelight processions in Fatima and Lourdes. We carried the statue of the Pilgrim Virgin around Mount St. Michael, while praying the Rosary. The last two Hail Mary’s of each mystery chanted, and we also sang songs to Our Lady. (The words were printed around the candle’s paper cup holders.) Unfortunately, it was windy and so we had to interrupt the procession to re-light our candles. Nevertheless, this obstacle did not stop our memorable procession.

Two days after the Fatima Conference we commemorated Our Lady of Fatima’s final apparition, occurring on October the thirteenth. What better way to honor her than to recite the Fifteen Mysteries of the Rosary in procession? We do this on the thirteenth of each month, May to October, in Riverfront Park in Spokane. We started at 6: 30 pm, journeying through rainy and cold weather. Along the way we carried standards with the images of our Lady and the Sacred Heart. We promised her a Rosary each day, penances, and sacrifices. We begged her intercession for peace and unity.

As we were concluding the procession I thought of all the beautiful ceremonies we have in honor to Our Lady. I thought not only of these, but also of the great variety of ceremonies and traditions that we possess as Catholics. Let us always remember to pray the Rosary every day, for Our Lady promised that she will deliver and protect from the snares of the enemy all those who pray the holy Rosary.



This is another view of our procession on the feast of the Most Holy Rosary.



Serving the Pontifical High Mass was a highlight for the seminarians during the Fatima Conference.



Fr. Gabriel oversees football practice during PE class.



Using a powered splitter sure saves time in splitting wood!



In addition to teaching in the seminary, the priests also instruct students in our parish school.



This poor hawk broke its neck in flying into one of our chapel windows.

Come, follow Me.”

In addition to our daily task of teaching and forming young men, one of our ongoing concerns here is to obtain future vocations. As Our Lord indicated (“Pray the master of the harvest that He send laborers into the harvest.”) we pray daily at the seminary for this intention. But added to prayer there is action.

There are several ways by which we seek to foster vocations. One of them is our annual boys’ camp, which has generated interest. There is also our web site. Despite our inability to spend much time on this project, it has been a means of reaching some interested souls. We also have decided to expand our seminary to include interested 8th graders. Finally, I plan on traveling around the country over the coming months to visit other parishes, in order to promote the seminary. I ask your prayers for the success of these endeavors.

The task, however, is not easy, to say the least. Some young men who are being called by God fail to respond due to selfishness or worldliness. Others have parents who are unwilling to make the sacrifice of allowing their sons to go so far from home. Also, some parents fail to recognize that it is truly God who has instilled the call into their son’s heart, or they reject the notion of a vocation because it interferes with their plans for their son.

For all of these reasons and more, vocations these days are few and far between. Let us continue to pray for those whom God is calling, that they fit themselves for this call and that they follow it. I also ask for your prayers in particular for a young man who wishes to come to our seminary from the Philippines but has thus far been unable to obtain the necessary visa.

Seminary Support Club

If you are not yet a member of the Seminary Support Club and would like to become a member, you may write to the seminary at the address below. Members pledge to pray for the success of the seminary and, if able, to send a regular financial contribution for its support.

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 Latin, theology, 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.

Thus, we continue in this work for souls, and we count on your prayers and support to make it a success. It would be hard to find another work more worthy of support than that of the formation of future priests. We thank you for your support and assure you of our daily prayers for you and your families. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus pour out upon you the bounties of His Sacred Heart!

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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