



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

July 2012

Dear seminary friends and benefactors,

Praised be Jesus and Mary. At last the month of July is arriving — the only month in which there are no regular classes at St. Joseph Seminary! At the same time, July is not a month devoid of activity for us. Two important events, the annual boys' camp and our priests' meeting in Omaha, will take place this month. The balance of our time will be spent in working on various summer projects, in rest and recuperation, but above all in daily prayer. Teaching has a way of draining our reserves, not only physical but also spiritual. And so the summer is a time to rebuild our spiritual lives in quiet prayer and retreat.

The school year ended well, with the seminarians enjoying one last camping trip, this time to Priest Lake north of our seminary by a couple hours. The weather was (and continued to be throughout June) colder than usual and rainy. Fortunately, there are cabins in the state park at Priest Lake, perfect for our small group of priest (Fr. Bernard) and seminarians. The camping trip was a nice way to end the school year.

We also were able to have our annual outdoor procession of Corpus Christi — something that was in doubt due to the rain. The procession was beautiful, stopping at two outdoor altars: one at Our Lady's shrine and the other at the Sacred Heart shrine. Then, on the feast of the Sacred Heart, Fr. Bernard had an outdoor Mass at the Sacred Heart shrine, the first time that has been done here.

This is also the time at the seminary when we begin to prepare for the coming year. We are reviewing

applications and gathering the various paperwork necessary for admitting new candidates. This is an important intention to your prayers — that God will guide suitable candidates to our seminary. For the success of the seminary is primarily contingent upon receiving young men of outstanding quality to be molded into future priests. Let us pray daily for many devout aspirants to the priesthood.

The following articles were written a few weeks ago by our seminarians, as they were preparing to leave for the summer. Let us also pray for them, that they will retain the spiritual progress they have made over the past year, and that they will follow the will of God in their lives. As always, we pray daily for you and your families. May God bless you for your support of our seminary.

In the service of Jesus and Mary,
Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI
Rector

July calendar

8–14 — Annual summer boys' camp

16–20 — Priests' meeting in Omaha

Reflections on the past year

by Jordan Hartman, gr. 10

Summer is here and the school year has come to an end! Everyone is excited and ready to relax. But the devil and his cohorts are just getting started. While there is still time left for your soul on earth, he will be trying every trick in his book to make you fall, especially when your guard is at the lowest. In my opinion, that would be during the summer.

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Our teachers, cooks and seminarians recently posed for this group photo.

Reflections on the past year

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We, as Catholics, need to be ready. And how can we be as ready as possible? Well, knowledge is power, as they say. So think about what you have learned since the beginning of the year. During Lent what helped you the most? What success did you have and how did you overcome certain temptations in the past? These are just some things that are helpful to think of and are good to apply to your daily life. If you find that a certain practice is helping you, don't abandon it, but continue it. If you learned how to drive a car, would you, instead of driving, try to walk to your destination? So we must apply what we have learned.

Being at the minor seminary over the school year, I have learned a lot. And I'm sure that this experience will contribute greatly to my spiritual welfare. And as I contemplate my first long, drawn-out, yet seemingly shortest year of my life, I try to think of all the things I have attempted and accomplished; yet I find it difficult to remember all the year's exciting highlights and fun-filled activities. After following a somewhat repetitive seminary schedule, I find myself looking forward to a nice, quiet vacation.

Doing drills, tests, essays and brain-racking homework isn't exactly what I would call fun, but as the saying goes, an idle mind is the devil's workshop. So I try to cooperate as docilely as I possibly can to keep my mind occupied. Yet the school year comes to a close as it always does, and now, for the moment, there are no more lessons to be had. So what do you do to keep your mind busy? Spiritual reading is very beneficial, and so is prayer. As St. Teresa of Avila said: "The devil knows he has lost the soul that perseveringly practices mental prayer."

Also, we must not forget to pray for our teachers who slave away "twenty-four/seven" to teach us something new every day, and who try to put up with us students and keep us interested in what we are supposed to learn. It would be selfish of students to think that they are the only ones that are tired of school. And even when you graduate you aren't done learning — your whole life is filled with learning. Jesus is our eternal Teacher to Whom we owe our salvation. So it is to Him that we should pray on behalf of our teachers, for the present and future.

Having said that, dear reader I will close this article wishing you a blessed summer. I am eager to write your future *Guardian* article and hope you are as eager to receive them. God bless you!

Knowledge with kindness

by Aedan Gilchrist, graduate

After another year at St. Joseph's seminary I have learned a great deal more about the world and its problems and the wonders of our Faith. I have learned many lessons about myself, especially with the need to

improve on the virtue of patience with those who are less understanding than I, or who out of sheer stubbornness refuse to accept that they're wrong in regards to whatever we are discussing at the time. I have learned a great deal about my fault in the virtue of patience, as I lose patience very quickly with stupidity or rebellion.

When you think you have acquired a virtue be very careful and expect to be tested for I was this past year with younger seminarians. Now even I can say, "We all know what it's like dealing with teens!" Teenagers don't like being told they are wrong, even if you have all the evidence in the world to show them. There is no point to having all the knowledge in the world if you do not have the authority to command the ears of your audience. But together with authority, there is also required a gentleness. Think of your audience or student as a tool or weapon being crafted on an anvil. If you are too soft with your blows you'll never form the metal, but if you are too hard and add too much carbon (uncontrolled correction), you'll make the metal brittle and it will surely break.

Patience and authority should go hand in hand when correcting others, or the one who is corrected will become harder to correct in the future. I have learned this lesson with others. In order to gain the respect of ones younger, you must earn it by good example. There is one other key to example, authority and gentleness, and that is if you are in any kind of authority do not become the *chum* of the one under you. There is a distinct difference between a chum and a father-son relationship. A father is not the friend of the son, so that the son may learn from his father's authority; but, of course, they still love one another.

I'm glad I have experienced this lesson, but also am very happy that now I can go home and recover from the teenagers — or I should say *younger teenagers*, as I am, of course, still one myself. So here is my apology for my own stubbornness. I would also like to thank God for being a wonderful Father of authority, constantly yet gently correcting us.



The weather was chilly on our camping trip, but we had a good campfire to keep us warm.



Aedan and Jordan were privileged to carry the bishop's mitre and crozier when he came for Confirmation and graduation in early June.



This picture of Fr. Bernard and his server was taken right before the outdoor Mass.



There is a particular beauty about the sacrifice of the Mass being offered, we might say, in the cathedral built by God Himself.



With all the rain we have had, there is plenty of lawn-mowing to keep us busy.



Our recent camping trip afforded the opportunity to see some beautiful sights, as the rivers were raging with the spring melt from the mountains.



Goals for summer and for life

by Patrick Gilchrist, gr. 9

The year has been drawing to a close swiftly and silently, but altogether it has been a pretty good year. There have been some really exciting trips that we have gone on. At the beginning of the year we went to the Slaters' home, which we did again recently. We also went to the Schindlers' cabin on Lake Coeur d'Alene, and we recently went to Seattle and to Fr. Anaya's parish in Tacoma, which was exciting.

The end is near. The time is come when we must all go home for the summer, and it will likely be hot, but that does not mean we may slacken with our spiritual reading or our reception of confession and Holy Communion. We will not always have our teachers around reminding us to receive the sacraments or to keep us from getting in trouble. There will be times when you will be by yourself. Will you make the right decisions?

The seminary is a great school to go to because the world is excluded and you are sealed off from its contagion and filth. With the help of frequent confession, which we have available every Tuesday and Thursday, and also the aid of even more frequent Communion, which we are able to receive every day in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, it is easy to overcome all the obstacles in the way of our eternal salvation and goal.

Heaven should be our main goal in life, but often it is forgotten or put aside. Sometimes we need to reconfigure our list of priorities and make one hundred percent sure that we are doing the will of God and that we have heaven at the top of our list.

And so, concluding the last article of the year, I would like to say: Go to confession and Holy Communion as often as possible this summer and try to keep God, heaven, and eternal happiness at the top of your list.

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.



It is always a joy and privilege to attend the public Rosary in Spokane on the 13th.

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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