



# THE GUARDIAN

Vol. XIV No. 12

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

August 2013

## Priests need prayers too.

by Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

The past month of July has been a busy month, with our annual Boys' Camp, a priests' meeting and missionary travels. Alas, August is already here, which means that classes will soon begin. Before then, however, we have a few weeks to enjoy the summer and prepare for the new school year.

The month of August is also a time to recall our duty to pray for priests, since we celebrate each year during this month the feast of that marvelous pastor, the Cure of Ars. We often remind you of the duty to pray for vocations, but perhaps we don't often think of the duty to pray for our priests, for they also need our prayers. Remember that priests are human beings endowed with divine power to offer Holy Mass and confect the sacraments. Yet they remain human, with all the defects and weaknesses of human nature.

Every priest is fully aware of his own human defects. As much as we priests strive, through prayer and spiritual exercises, to become more like Christ, there still remains fallen human

nature. In this regard, it is consoling to recall that even great saints were tempted to discouragement. We recall that St. John Marie Vianney was frequently assailed by the temptation to leave his parish in Ars in order to go to some monastery to spend more time in prayer and penance. Eventually, he realized that was a temptation and that God wanted him to remain where he was.

Likewise, every priest has his trials and discouragements. But that is where you come in, with your prayers and encouragement. Remember also that by praying for your priests, you really are praying for yourselves. The reason is that the better priests live their vocation and fulfill their duties, the more you benefit from their ministrations.

We priests are most grateful to the laity for your prayers and encouragement. I also want to thank you for supporting our seminaries and ask that you continue to do so. For "the harvest is great but the laborers are few." May God continue to bless our work, and may He grant us many holy priests.

## August calendar

- 9 — Feast of St. John Marie Vianney
- 14 — Religious Retreat begins
- 22 — Vows ceremony
- 25 — Seminarians return; orientation
- 26 — First day of classes
- 29-31 — Annual camping trip

## A Prayer for Parish Priests

Almighty and merciful God, who didst bestow upon the blessed Cure of Ars, wonderful pastoral zeal and great fervor for prayer and penance, grant, we beseech Thee, that by his example and intercession, our parish priests may be able to gain the souls of their brethren for Christ, and with them attain to everlasting glory. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(An indulgence of 300 days. The Raccolta #672)*



After the Stations of the Cross on the seminary grounds, the boys erected a large wooden cross in memory of Our Lord's Passion..



*Fr. Gabriel offers outdoor Mass at the shrine of the Sacred Heart on the seminary grounds.*



*The attendees of the camp were able to serve the daily Mass in the seminary chapel.*



*On top of the mountain, after a long climb.*



*Here the boys are carrying the cross they made, as they perform the outdoor Stations of the Cross.*



*The boys enjoyed canoeing in mild white water rapids.*



*Thank you to Mr. LeStage, for taking us tubing on Hauser Lake.*



*Camp St. Joseph wouldn't be much of a camp without the dedicated labors of our cooks.*



*The annual Boys' Camp would not be complete without the evening campfire.*

*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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