



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

September 2013

Our new school year has begun with our small group of five seminarians. Our classes include Latin, Theology, Math, English, History, Spanish, P. E. and choir. (The new seminarians are taking computer instead of Spanish.) So far everything is going well, although we know that the studies will likely become more involved in the days ahead!

After the first few days of classes we will go on a short camping trip — a custom at the seminary at the start of a new year. It looks like the weather will be good, so we should have a great time. We also enjoy taking our P. E. classes outdoors for the first couple months, while the weather is nice.

A big plus in the seminary is our involvement in the liturgy and in choir. Every seminarian has the opportunity to serve Mass each week. We also have regular choir practices to rehearse for High Masses and other parts of the liturgy. It is nice that all the seminarians can sing, so we hope to develop a good choir here. Also, some of the seminarians play the piano or other musical instruments. During free time, you can usually hear the piano being played.

So all in all, it is shaping up to be a good year. We all get along well with one another and are looking forward to growing in knowledge and the grace of God this school year. Please pray for us, and we promise to remember you in our prayers.

Excuse me, sir, what are you doing?

by Rev. Frater Anthony M. Short, CMRI

So what are we doing here! Why, when I last checked we were running a minor seminary. Why? Well because we need priests so badly. Why do we need priests and religious so badly? Our Lord has a ready answer: “The harvest is indeed great but the laborers are few.” The priest takes the place of Christ on earth in saving souls. Are souls being lost? Our Lady of Fatima can answer that one: “So many souls go to hell because there is no one to pray for them.” To sum up we need priests, religious, and prayers to save souls.

The joy of serving God wholeheartedly beats anything the world, the flesh, and the devil have to offer. Have you ever noticed a priest or religious who doesn't seem to age very fast? Well, sometimes that joy can't help it, it

September calendar

- 1-2 — Seminary outing
- 5 — Our secretary's birthday
- 8 — Feast of Our Lady's Nativity
- 9 — Jordan's birthday
- 12 — Feast of the Holy Name of Mary; chanted Vespers
- 15 — Feast of the Seven Sorrows BVM; chanted Vespers
- 24 — Our Lady of Ransom; chanted Vespers
- 25 — Mid-quarter; no homework
- 29 — Feast of St. Michael the Archangel

just has to come out from their heart even to the point that you can see it on their faces. Does that mean that they

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Our dog Victor gets a lot of attention at the seminary.

Excuse me, sir, what are you doing?

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don't have any pain and suffering? Of course not! But the cold truth is that people in the world don't have as much help and graces to bear crosses and so it is harder for them. Remember, the cross is made of rough wood; if you don't hold it tight, you'll get more splinters.

Try to think of a time that you had the most fun of your life. Now how long did it last? Probably not very long. Did you ever notice a sense of emptiness looming on the horizon? Did you ever think that maybe God made your heart so big that only the infinite God could satisfy it? Well He did. Isn't that awesome!

Here is Jesus' challenge to a young man with a priestly or religious vocation: "Are you man enough to be like Me? Are you man enough to leave everything behind, family, friends, wealth, the idea of having your own family, and your own will so that you can come to follow Me? If you are, then I will help you. My Blessed Mother Mary will be your very best friend and will show you how to find Me."

Here is Jesus' challenge to a young woman with a religious vocation: "Do you really want to be loved, cherished, and appreciated? After all, I am the only "Mr. Perfect" that really exists. Leave your family, friends, comfort, etc. and your own will and come follow Me. Give Me your whole heart and I will give you Mine."

Remember now, that to the young man and young woman who follow Him, Our Lord made a really big promise: "I will give you **a hundredfold even in this life, and in the world to come, life everlasting.**" This doesn't mean that it is easy to be a priest or religious, but if you think about it, it is a whole lot easier than what bad people have to go through, even in this life.

To me it seems it would be disrespectful to think that God isn't giving enough vocations. Please, I beg you, if you really want to save the world, pray that more young people respond to the special calling that Jesus is giving them. So, since you asked, *that is what the seminary is all about.*

Where it stops no one knows

by Jordan Hartman, gr. 11

Wow! My first *Guardian* article of this new school year. Where does the time go? (A question which stumps many people, so I won't try to decipher it!) It feels as though I have been at the seminary for only a little time, when in reality this will be my third year to attend school here. When I came back after summer break, I found myself remembering little things about the seminary that had become ordinary to me during the previous year. And after my shock subsided, I surprised myself by going about the seminary as if I had never even left! It seemed like my summer break zipped by before I had a chance to know it had come. But I have a refreshing

feeling about being back, which tells me that I really did have a summer break. (A comforting thing to know.)

However, when one thinks about it, he might find that he is glad that time goes so quickly. For example, one's joys on this earth can be so easily squashed by sorrows of the past, present or even future. Aren't we glad that God doesn't prolong our suffering? Or maybe we made mistakes which we now wish we could undo. But it does no good to dwell on past mistakes. They say that *time* is the best remedy for this. But time will not stop or reverse. It keeps going. Every precious second given to us by God brings us closer to eternal paradise or eternal punishment. We must use it wisely and not squander it on worldly pleasures and base entertainment. At the same time, we must be patient. It would defeat the purpose if one were impatient and became uncharitable in his haste to be with God.

In conclusion, I look at time as a double-edged sword. It seems like time does the opposite of what you want it to do. Yet time can bring joy. After all, if it weren't for time we wouldn't have Christmas, Easter or any other feast day. And yes, even birthdays would be nonexistent. (A tragedy to be sure!) And if we manage our time well here on earth, we won't have to worry about time for an eternity!

Think of it or regret it!

by Rynan Golpe, gr. 12

Good day. Nice to see you reading our articles again. In this article, I want you to contemplate about judgment. I hope you will enjoy reading this article, which is a story I heard in my country, the Philippines.

There was a couple who lived in a forest but had no child for a long time of their married life. Yet they never stopped hoping to have such a precious gift. They asked God over and over again with a real penitential prayer for that wonderful, precious blessing. But still, God didn't answer their prayer yet. And still their faith was stronger. It became stronger until one day, while they were praying together in front of their little altar with a little Crucifix and statue of the Holy Family, the wife totally blacked out. The husband was very nervous and started to panic, but then he heard a sweet voice coming from the holy altar saying, "Be calm, My son; your wife is fine." As soon as the voice disappeared, the husband felt great happiness. He went out of their small yet peaceful house and shouted aloud that soon he would be a father. Nine months later, the wife gave birth to their most wonderful gift from God, a baby boy.

It was a beautiful sunny day when the proud and loving couple went to the river to catch fish and to wash their clothes, while their baby child remained peacefully sleeping in his cradle with their well-trained dog. When they came back, they saw the cradle where the baby had been, full of fresh blood dripping to their bamboo floor. And on the side was the well-trained dog, with blood dripping from his mouth.

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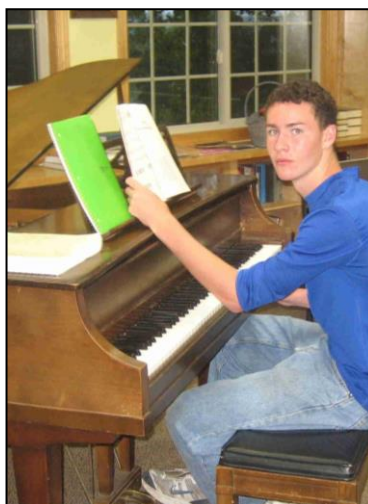
Frater Anthony uses the wood lathe to finish some pieces for our new altar.



Two of the seminarians are helping Frater Anthony with a project in the shop.



One of the first lessons for new seminarians — How to make your bed properly!



The seminarians often use the piano during their free time.



Mrs. Salgado, our secretary, also teaches computer to the seminarians.



Frater Anthony teaches Theology, choir and P. E. and supervises the seminarians' chores.



Mrs. Gallagher is our history and English teacher and also helps with cooking meals for us.



Fr. Benedict teaches Latin, Spanish and mathematics to the seminarians.

Think of it or regret it!

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The father's anger was so great that he immediately killed the dog.

Only too late the mother called to him to stop. For with great emotion she found that the child was alive, with a big dead snake at his side. So, what is your judgment? Faith, love, and patience are just three of the many lessons that you can pick up in this story. One of the big lessons in this story is about rash judgment. Imagine, if you do not apply this in your life, what will be the effect of being judgmental. Please think of it or else you will regret it.

Why are there so few?

We have just begun our 15th year of operation at St. Joseph Minor Seminary. Despite small numbers of students each year, we continue this work, convinced as we are of its value in the formation of future priests. As I have mentioned in past articles on the subject, there was a time — not that long ago — in this country especially, when there were numerous minor seminaries training teenage boys. It was understood that many of these young men would not go on to the priesthood; nevertheless, the seminary provided an important formation for those who would advance to the altar, as well as a solid grounding in the Faith and in virtue for those who did not.

The existence of minor seminaries is a testament to the wisdom of Holy Mother Church, who understands how critical to their future life is the formation that teenagers receive during those difficult and decisive years of adolescence. We see this wisdom in the teachings of the Council of Trent, which insisted that seminaries be established so that young aspirants to the priesthood could be formed in habits of piety and discipline from their earliest years. Our minor seminary is an effort to fulfill that wish of the Church.

But why are there not more vocations? No doubt, this problem is due, to a great degree, to the ills of our modern society: the music, TV, bad companions, video games and other forms of entertainment, which draw youth away from God and from their faith. On the other hand, our future priests and religious will come from homes where God and the teachings of the Church hold a lofty position, where family prayer, especially the Rosary, is a daily routine, and where



This year's students come from California, Arizona, Colorado, Washington and the Philippines.

parents instill discipline into their children from an early age and seek to keep them from occasions of sin. Parents ought to pray daily that God will bless their family by calling one or more of their children to His service. They must also be willing to part with their children — to allow them to follow God's call.

All Catholics ought to take a lively interest in the work of seminaries. You can fulfill this obligation by praying for vocations and by supporting financially the education of future priests. You could do this by sending a donation monthly or at least from time to time. You could even sponsor a seminarian by providing a scholarship for his education. Remember, that the existence of seminaries and their success is of vital interest to every Catholic.

Finally, at the beginning of a new school year I would like to thank you for your support and your prayers for the welfare and success of the seminary. As with any Catholic institution, the seminary is entirely dependent on Almighty God and His grace for its success, for "Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it" (Psalm 126). Our seminary has thus far been successful only by God's help, through Mary's intercession.

Please continue to pray for our seminary. We can be sure that the devil will not rest and leave us alone. So we ask that you pray daily to St. Joseph for our seminary. We are blessed to have such a wonderful and powerful patron in St. Joseph. Let us beg his help in this work of formation. May the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and St. Joseph bless and reward each of you.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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