



# THE GUARDIAN

Vol. XV No. 2

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

October 2013

The past month has been a full month of activities and studies. We enjoyed several days of camping in two separate trips: one at Mirror Lake and the other at Lake Coeur d'Alene. The water was perfect for swimming, so we took full advantage. We have also made several afternoon trips to a local lake for swimming and canoeing.

Now the weather has turned colder and there has been a good amount of rain. Fall is definitely here, so it is time for us to harvest the apples from our trees. That means apple cider and Mrs. Gallagher's famous apple crisp — at least if we get the apples before the moose eat all of them. A few days ago, someone spied two moose leisurely strolling through our property, not far from the seminary. We all rushed out to see them before our dog Victor bravely drove them away. Such sightings are not uncommon at this time of year, especially with all the goodies down at the orchard.

Next Monday will be a red-letter day for St. Joseph Seminary, as His Excellency comes for the final vows ceremony of Frater Anthony Marie Short, one of our teachers. At the same ceremony Rynan Golpe, one of our seminarians, will be received as a postulant of the religious congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen. We expect a number of priests to be present for this ceremony. Later that week will be the Fatima Conference. It is always exciting for us to be able to meet the priests and guests who gather from around the country, and to attend the various events of the Conference.

As we do each year in October, we will have a daily Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament exposed throughout

the month. We promise to remember you also in these prayers. May we all grow to appreciate more the holy Rosary and recite it devoutly every day. Please also pray for us. May God bless you all.

## The slopes and telephone poles of sin

by Vincent Prado, gr. 10

A couple of weeks ago, on Monday afternoon, I learned a lesson both physically and spiritually. It all started when I became bored that day. They say "Idleness is the devil's workshop"; well, I was idle that afternoon, and that's what got me into trouble. (Not spiritually in trouble, but physically.)

Near the church, there are a few spots in the road where it slopes a bit, and here at the seminary, there are a couple of wagons just superb for riding down these slopes. And so, a devious plan began to take form in my head of bringing recreation to another level. The wagons made the slopes look all the more inviting for my conceived task. I called together my cohorts and together we set off for the hills.

When it was my turn to "drive" the wagon, I was a little afraid, but I was ready for the amusing task that lay before me. I set off on the wagon full of joy and contentment — that is, until the "power steering" of the makeshift "go cart" completely locked up. There I was, left for the

## October calendar

- 7 — Feast of the Most Holy Rosary BVM; Frater Anthony professes final vows; seminarian Rynan Golpe is received as a postulant
- 10–11 — Seminarians attend the events of the Fatima Conference
- 13 — Fatima Conference guests visit St. Joseph Seminary; evening Rosary Procession
- 17 — Sodality reception ceremony
- 27 — Feast of Christ the King; renewal of seminary enthronement
- 30–31 — First Quarter exams
- 31 — End of First Quarter

embarrassing punishment of the unsteerable wagon. Anyone who is reading this probably doesn't know what was at the bottom of the slope. Well, to be frank, it was a stately

*continued on page 2*



Father gives the final blessing at the conclusion of the Solemn High Mass.

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## Slopes

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wooden telephone pole. As the reader may already be guessing, I did ram into the telephone pole at top speed. I escaped, though, (and the wagon too), unscathed.

Even though nothing happened to body or wagon, there is still a lesson to be learned. A spiritual lesson can be easily depicted from what I just explained to the reader. Sin very much works in the same manner. It looks inviting at first, but then it leaves you in a crumpled heap at the bottom. And so, dear reader, be warned of the speciousness of sin, and be on the lookout for tall wooden things called telephone poles!

## Humble or haughty

*by Jordan Hartman, gr. 11*

**H**umility is so elusive a virtue that even the supposition of its presence in oneself is enough to chase it away. And there are those who would strive for humility on account of a shrouded impulse to obtain the praise due to one who practices this virtue, thus, of course, rendering it useless. Such is the case of yours truly. “Oh! Surely not. Surely *you* are not the victim of your own lecturing and examples?” Oh! Surely yes. Or whence do you suppose I obtained the knowledge of such things? Naturally, from having first-hand experience concerning the matters. And to prove the veracity of my statement, I will disclose to you the following tale.

Once upon a time, when Fr. Benedict called me aside from my cohorts to do a chore I thought, “Ah! A task which only I can fulfill,” after which I exultantly followed him. He led me a little ways away and abruptly stopped and turned pointing to my chore: an overflowing wastebasket jammed full of the stagnating remains of past meals and heaven only knows what else. Fr. Benedict, the personification of perspicuity, told me exactly how to carry out the task to which I was bound, as the wonderful smells of ancient garbage wafted in my face and my human nature shrank back in dismay. However, I regained my composure and comforted myself by thinking that the others were positively too frail to undergo such a penance.

So, with an ever-inflating head, I began my duty, only slightly discouraged when the trash bag broke at the bottom halfway to the door and the contents were strewn across the floor. Quick to clean up the mess, lest others might see the humiliating prospect, I assured myself that it was Divine Providence which caused the bag to burst so that I could become holier than any human being who ever walked the face of the earth (the unfortunate happening, magnified in my mind, seeming to be worthy of the effect).

Having been assigned this task at evening, it was dark when I finally stepped out the door. After I had cleaned the floor and re-bagged the dreadful mess, I continued on my way to the dumpster. To facilitate the strenuous chore and remove the trash from my side, I sought for a cart on which to place the sack of tormenting odors. But not finding it in its usual

place, I convinced myself that carts were for sissies and commenced my arduous journey. At last I reached my destination. I triumphantly lifted the bag of trash up to the edge of the dumpster and struggled to push it over the lip. The weight was so great that I at first thought the sack would rebel, not desirous of its condemnation, and squash me under its tremendous, filthy, corpulent mass! However, with equal willpower I gave one last final effort and the trash was vanquished! One can only imagine my jubilation during the return journey. Victorious in the face of such odds, I promptly concluded that had it not been for my ingenuity, the chore would have been filled with even more devastating disasters!

Such were my faults. Now however, I have perceived my pride and made amends. I saw that I tried to be humble and became proud. Consequently, I am even more humble than I have ever been! (There I go again!)

## School-year employment

*by Byron Ugolini, gr. 8*

**H**ere at the seminary we are working on a few projects with Frater Anthony. These interesting projects are right up my alley. We are working on projects, such as homemade squirt guns and picnic tables. We used PVC piping to make the squirt guns, along with a combination of red, blue, green, and black paint, little rubber washers, and plumber’s glue.

So far we have made two picnic tables. We used a good amount of redwood to complete this task, but just recently we have put a few layers of varnish on the second picnic table. Every time I look at the table, I say to myself, I wish we could keep it! (Actually, it is for our parish auction, to raise money for the school.)

Our most recent task is completing the pillars for the tabernacle of our new altar. I sure hope they look nice. We use a wood lathe to round out the blocks of wood, and we use a chisel to carve the design in one portion of wood.

There are also many other chores, besides working in the wood shop. These have included: repairing the rods for the communion cloths in the seminary chapel, preparing the grounds to be hydro-seeded, gathering wood for the Sisters, and in P.E. we have been working on the *Capture-the-flag* course, and working on the seminary tree fort. We have recently cleaned out the gym for the auction, and will soon be cutting the grass for the last time this year.

The *Capture-the-flag* course has not been tended to for a while, so all the trails which used to be there are over-grown. So part of the work with this task is to clear paths around the course. Also, the tree fort has not been serviced in a while, so you can imagine what it might look like now. Some of the tasks involved with the fort are: finishing the wall around the fort on the ground and extending the levels on the trees.

I am sure that there will be more jobs throughout the school year. I will complete every task that is appointed to me, with full effort and with fervent love of God.



*At Mirror Lake we climbed a mountain close by the campground.*



*The seminarians enjoy a late dinner on our camping trip to Mirror Lake.*



*We spent a lot of time canoeing on Lake Coeur d'Alene.*



*Vincent tries to reload his water cannon while getting sprayed with water.*



*Here Jordan is assembling one of the picnic tables in the shop.*



*The seminarians helped out with the annual school auction fundraiser.*



*Despite the rain, Dominic takes advantage of a new stretch of pavement for rollerblading.*

## So far, so good

by Dominic Pulliam, gr. 10

Thus far life in the minor seminary is moving along quite well. School is, well, just school, and the teachers are excellent. They teach in a well-mannered way and help you whenever you need help.

Our day is a well-ordered day and it keeps us busy. It starts with waking up at 6:20 in the morning. We get ready and have morning prayers at 6:45, followed by Mass at 7:00. Afterwards we have breakfast, which is different every day. We may have pancakes or waffles or eggs and potatoes, or granola, to name just a few.

After breakfast, one dish crew does the dishes. We have two crews: the morning crew and the evening crew. We switch every week. After this is classes. First period is Latin. After that is math, English and theology. At 11:50 we go into the House of God and say our Noon prayers. Afterwards we have lunch and at 12:30 we start classes once more. The first afternoon class is Spanish, followed by history and then either P.E. or choir. Fr. Benedict lets the seminarians and high school boys go to the park on Wednesdays.

After this is free time up until 5:00. Then it's Rosary and Vespers, and at 5:30, you guessed it, dinner! Our cooks are very good at making nutritious and tasty dinners. Then it's on to study hall for two hours, which is usually enough time to get our homework done by 8:00, when it's free time for some recreation. Usually we play pool or play the piano or just read *Calvin and Hobbes*. At 8:45 we have spiritual reading and at 9:00 we have night prayers. Then it's bedtime.

I really like this schedule because it keeps us busy. That's one reason why I like it here. We are always busy, even on the weekends. Not busy with just work but fun activities and sometimes a game of street hockey, basketball or soccer.

St. Joseph Seminary is a great place. You have the honor of living with priests and under the same roof as Our Lord. It is a place where you can grow spiritually and make new Catholic friends. For me it's another family, for when I'm away from my real family. It's another home and a whole different experience.

## St. Michael, defend us in the battle!

On this past Sunday we celebrated the feast of St. Michael and the Nine Choirs of Angels with a solemn High Mass, our first of the new school year. Later in the day, I used the exorcism prayers, written by Pope Leo XIII, calling upon

## 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.

St. Michael to drive away the demons from our midst. This simple exorcism formula (not to be confused with the solemn exorcism of a possessed person) can be used frequently, and it is greatly beneficial to do so.

We often forget about the angels, since we do not see them. There are angels all around us, but then there are also devils, swarming about those who love and serve God. They need not worry about tempting the vast majority of men, who already do their bidding. Hence, they can concentrate their fury and their temptations on those of us who are trying to live our Faith. If we could only see them, we would realize the large numbers of evil spirits who daily seek our destruction.

St. Paul was well aware of this fact. He states that our battle is not a battle of flesh and blood, but a battle against "the spirits of wickedness from on high." That is why we need the protection and intercession of St. Michael and all the good angels. We ought to fervently invoke their aid in our daily struggles against sin and temptation. It is also a good idea to make frequent use of Holy Water, a most powerful sacramental, and to daily recite the prayer to St. Michael.

Let us then honor and invoke these blessed spirits, recalling their victorious fight against the devils, when St. Michael uttered that challenge: Who is like unto God? St. Michael, the protector of the Church, will have the ultimate victory. Let us not forget to invoke him in our daily struggles against Satan and his legions.

Also, I want to encourage you to use the enclosed card to send us the names of those departed whom you would like to have remembered in our prayers and Masses during November. As always, we thank you for your prayers and support and assure you of our daily prayers for you. May God bless you and your families.

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*

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