



THE GUARDIAN

Have you ever noticed that the month of March is chock-full of some very well-known saints? There are St. John of God, St. Casimir, St. Patrick, the youthful St. Dominic Savio, the learned St. Thomas Aquinas and the renowned St. Benedict. But one saint in particular catches our attention more than the others during this month. Can you guess who? Of course, it is the foster father of Our Lord Himself, the good St. Joseph. And to us seminarians, that means a no-homework day. Hurray!

But more importantly, we at the seminary observe a two-fold custom for this feast: first, of having a high Mass on that day, in honor of St. Joseph, and second, of making St. Joseph cords which will be blessed and set out for all the parishioners. And if you don't already do so, we encourage you to try wearing the cord of St. Joseph as there are many great blessings attached to this devotion.

During the past month of February, we had our third and final ski trip of the year. It snowed the day before, making the skiing conditions the next day ideal. Now we wait for the next snowfall to put our newly made sleds to good use. Never a dull moment at the seminary! But you know the saying: "An idle mind is the devil's workshop."

Another activity included taking down all of the Christmas decorations in early February. Now, with the Christmas season gone, we all prepare for the coming of Lent: a beautiful and beneficial period in the liturgical year, when the Church changes from its more joyful colors to a penitential purple. And in the midst of all this, we seminarians continue forward with our education. We sincerely hope that all

our friends and benefactors will continue to pray for our perseverance and success in both our schooling and vocations. May God bless you all and grant you a blessed Lent!

Hopeful times

by Jordan Hartman, gr. 11

Hope is something every good Catholic should possess in a high degree, because hope means trust. And when I say "trust," I mean trust in God. Trust in God is essential to our faith because many vitally important truths taught by the Catholic Church require a deep trust in the fact that they are true. The Holy Trinity, the Blessed Eucharist and even the existence of heaven and hell demands faith which is strengthened by trust in God, or hope. And humility, which is the root of all virtue, strengthens both faith and hope, and helps us to properly accept all that the Church teaches. One hears a lot about faith and humility. They are probably the most preached-about subjects. But you never really hear a lot about hope.

Even though this may be the wrong time of year to be writing on hope, I figured I would try anyway. The Church has many different colors to express the changes in the liturgy all throughout the year. Green is the color that symbolizes hope. You usually see the priest's vestments this color after Pentecost. But the liturgical year is replete with occasions for reflection on hope.

Before Christmas the Chosen People trusted

March calendar	
5	— Ash Wednesday; solemn high Mass
7-9	— Annual seminary retreat
19	— Feast of St. Joseph, seminary patron; no classes
21	— Feastday of Fr. Benedict, our seminary rector
23	— Dominic's birthday; leave for Omaha
25	— Ordinations of Rev. Fr. Anthony Short, CMRI and Rev. Fr. Nino Molina
28	— Last Day of Third Quarter
31	— Fourth Quarter begins

that Christ would come to be their Savior. In an era when the devil ran rampant through the world, and all was overcast in darkness, there glimmered a single, brilliant ray of hope, to which all the Chosen People gathered in expectation and joy. They trusted in God's promise to send a Redeemer. They trusted in the prophecies made by the prophets of the Old Testament. They had to hope that God would fulfill these promises. Indeed, had He not, there would be no Catholic religion today.

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The seminarians have lately been making St. Joseph cords for the parishioners.

Hopeful times

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And as we enter into this most, solemn and penitential time of year, we all look toward the pinnacle of the liturgy: Easter. We unite ourselves with the apostles and our Blessed Mother Mary herself in hoping, trusting, that Jesus will rise on that great day of His resurrection. So as we trudge along through this important and beneficial phase of the liturgical year, let us remember to pray for hope, and avoid its opposing vice, despair. And if we do this, I know that we will all have an uplifting and advantageous Lent.

An interesting invention

by Byron Ugolini, gr. 8

Another month has gone by so fast with many new things. One of these new things was a sled, a very strange sled. Frater Anthony went thrift-shopping and came back with a couple pairs of skis, one pair of which was meant for a toddler. We put them to good use.

First, we found a piece of plywood that was about the same size as the skis. Next, we grabbed two 2x4s and matched their size with the skis. Following this, we screwed the skis to the 2x4s and to the piece of wood. Last but not least, we tested our invention.

At first we went to the small hill by the gym, which was a smart move, because the little sled flew faster than any store-bought sled I have ever seen. Frater Anthony was the first person to test the new sled, because no one else was brave enough to make the first run! About halfway down the hill he realized that the school children had built a jump at the bottom. Thinking quickly he bailed. This was only the first of many to come.

Like I said, more were to come. And many more runs did come — bigger, better, and faster. We used the sleds as snowboards. We went off jumps too. Dominic had the fastest sled, but that means he had to hit the jumps just right; otherwise, the sled stops but he doesn't — which happened, but not to Dominic. It happened to me.

I went standing up down the big hill by the seminary. There was a snow bank at the bottom. Well, you can fill in the rest of the picture. But I was the only one to successfully make it all the way down the hill and into the lower school yard. I wish we could have more fun experiences like this, but winter is almost over.

The humble carpenter

by Dominic Pulliam, gr. 10

St. Joseph was a humble carpenter, but he was very great in the eyes of God. We do our best to give glory to St. Joseph, which in turn gives glory to God. God loves us when we give glory to his saints and especially to Mary and her Spouse St. Joseph. St. Joseph is an outstanding patron and

an extraordinary intercessor from whom we can acquire an abundant amount of graces.

In March we celebrate St. Joseph's feast day on March 19th, and it is good to know something about him. Have you ever heard of the seven Sorrows and Joys of St. Joseph? Not many people have. But I am here to tell you before this glorious feast. I will tell you these in the order of sorrow and then joy.

Seven Sorrows

- When He found out Mary was expecting
- When the Child Jesus was lying in an impoverished manger
- The sight of Jesus' blood at the Circumcision
- When Mary would be pierced with a sword of sorrow
- The flight into Egypt
- The fear of the tyrant Archelaus
- The loss of the child Jesus

Seven Joys

- When the angel told him of the Incarnation
- Seeing the wise men adore Jesus as their God and Savior
- Imposing the sacred Name of Jesus
- The Divine Infant was to be the resurrection of many
- Seeing the idols overthrown in Egypt
- Sharing the company of Jesus and Mary in Nazareth
- The finding of the Child Jesus in the temple

These were his Joys and Sorrows and we can meditate on them. Here we see that even though he was the foster father of Jesus, he still had sorrows. The same applies to the Blessed Virgin Mary. She had her sorrows and joys. We also have our sorrows and joys in life but that is what gets us to Heaven. If we offer up our joys and sorrows we can obtain a vast amount of graces from God.

There is also a St. Joseph cord. This is a cord which, if worn for the right reason, obtains five things from St. Joseph: 1) his special protection, 2) purity of soul, 3) the grace of chastity, 4) final perseverance, and, 5) particular assistance at the hour of death. These are things we all need and which will be most helpful in our spiritual life.

So ask for St. Joseph's protection and ask him for special things that you may need. And if we pray to God through Mary and St. Joseph, we may obtain eternal happiness where we can praise God with them for all eternity.

True Mass vs. the new "Mass"

by Vincent Prado, gr. 10

Catholic: The Mass is the unbloody renewal of the sacrifice of the Cross. Novus Ordo: The Mass is the

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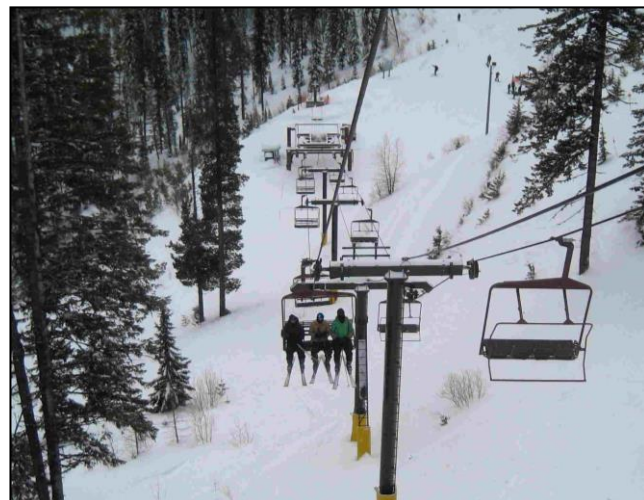
In the late afternoon sun the shadow of the bell tower from our church can be seen on the opposite snow bank.



Preparing for a recent high Mass.



The seminarians prepare for another run down the slopes of Silver Mountain.



The ride up the chairlift is peaceful and beautiful.



We have made good use of our homemade sleds.



One of the seminarians races down the hill on one of our homemade sleds.

True Mass vs. the new “Mass”

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gathering together of the people of God to celebrate the supper of the Lord.

The Mass, as we Catholics believe, is the same exact sacrifice as it was on Calvary. The only difference is that the Mass is unbloody opposed to the bloody sacrifice of the Cross. Until the council of Vatican II this was how the Catholic Church always functioned. But, as I will show, the Novus Ordo has distorted this sacred sacrifice.

The Novus Ordo definition of the Mass is that it is just a worship service directed to God (only the Novus Ordo accepts all religions as true). “Pope” John Paul II showed this when he allowed the statue of Buddha to be placed on the tabernacle. For the modern Catholics, the Mass isn’t the sacred sacrifice it once was. And how can a clown “Mass” or a beach ball “Mass” be sacred? “Pope” Francis put a beach ball on top of the altar! How can this even be considered as Catholic? It doesn’t give glory to God in the least sense.

In the Pre-Vatican II Mass the priest says Mass facing the crucifix, with his back to the people. In the New “Mass” the “priest” faces the people, as if he were some famous performer. The altar is replaced with a simple table. Also, the Mass is said in English. The Canon of the Mass is also quite distorted.

Now, the true Catholic Mass is the replica of Calvary. The priest offers up the unleavened bread and wine, which are later transubstantiated into the Body and Blood of Christ. Also at Communion time, the Catholic priest places the Host reverently onto the recipient’s tongue. In the New Mass, if it is even a host at all, the “priest” puts it ever so nicely into the recipient’s *hands*. How twisted is that? How sacrilegious that would be if we, on purpose, touched the consecrated Host! But Novus Ordo “Catholics” don’t seem to have a problem with it.

I hope what I just told you will help you cherish the true Mass even more than you do already. It is something sacred, the single most important event that can happen in our lives. Because every time we assist at Mass, we witness the same sacrifice as that of Calvary.

St. Joseph’s month

March is the month of St. Joseph, and it is sometimes also called the month of vocations. That is because we

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.

often pray to St. Joseph for the intention of more vocations for Holy Mother Church. It is also the time of year when we, at the minor seminary, begin to process applications for the next school year.

It is therefore most fitting that there will be ordinations to the priesthood this month. For us, it is significant that both young men to be ordained to the holy priesthood on March 25th are former students of our minor seminary. Our faculty and seminarians will happily make the long trip to Omaha to be present for this important event, while we continue to pray to St. Joseph to bless our seminary (and the Church) with many more vocations to the priesthood and the religious life.

We also begin the holy season of Lent during this month. Every year we appeal especially to your generosity in our annual Lenten Alms Drive. Since the practice of almsdeeds is listed as one of the great works of penance, it is particularly appropriate during Lent. Furthermore, by supporting the work of formation of future priests, you are performing a work most pleasing to God.

Please remember especially to pray daily for vocations. For Our Lord gave us no other solution to the dearth of vocations than prayer: “Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into His harvest” (Matt, 9:38). Remember that one good priest can bring about the salvation of many souls, and there is nothing more important than the salvation of a soul. By supporting this work, you share in the blessings of that work.

We are most grateful for your support and promise a daily remembrance in our prayers for benefactors. May God bless you and your loved ones, and may He grant to each of us the grace of a holy Lent, centered in the Passion of Our Lord.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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