



# THE GUARDIAN

Vol. XVI No. 2

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

October 2014

With the beginning of a new school year comes, for the seminarians, new classes to conquer (and by conquer I mean learn as much as we can from them), new experiences and also new faces at the seminary. So far, we number seven in all but are expecting another seminarian from South Korea. Recently, one of our seminarians has come from South Africa to join us.

This past September has been an eventful one. Early on, we had a camping trip to Mirror Lake in Idaho that was soon to be followed by a two-day outing to a cabin on Lake Coeur d'Alene. We did a lot of swimming and had a lot of fun in general! Shortly after that, we harvested plums and pears.

Another of our activities has been flag football. Every Wednesday and Friday we go to the park with the other high schoolers taught at the parish school close to the seminary, to prepare for our football games by drilling and skirmishing on a flat, grassy field (something we lack at the seminary!). Practice, practice, practice!

In October, we look forward to the Fatima Conference held annually at Mount St. Michael. Also, during the month of October, the Rosary is recited each day at the seminary before the Blessed Sacrament exposed — a tradition which anyone may attend to gain the many and special graces attached to this beautiful practice.

We have a lot to look forward to this new school year and hope to achieve, not only good grades, but also and more importantly good spiritual habits and an increase in virtue. We could not thank our benefactors enough for supporting us so generously and pray every day for your spiritual and temporal welfare. We

also hope that you, dear reader, will find some time to pray for us and for our perseverance in our vocations, as well as for our dedicated priests and teachers who slave away every day to make us learned young men, a task we are sure is difficult!

In conclusion, we wish you all an enjoyable autumn and hope you appreciate this month's edition of *The Guardian*.

## The leper priest

by Joseph Prado, gr. 8

Leprosy . . . that name will be forever remembered as the disease where the victim decayed before he had died. India alone, by the late 1800s, had more than 200,000 cases, and the South Pacific too, was being infected by the poor living conditions. On the Sandwich Islands the disease was rife, spreading amongst the inhabitants. Orders were given for all lepers to be shipped to the Island of Molokai, a largely desolate island. This was their home, and sadly it was not a pleasant one. They rarely received provisions and medicine, and their homes were flimsy shacks that sickened with the stench of leprosy. Water supplies were very poor, and other diseases such as typhus sprang from the foul conditions.

## October calendar

- 3 — Football game
- 7 — Most Holy Rosary BVM; outdoor procession
- 9–12 — Fatima Conference
- 17 — Football game
- 24 — Football game
- 26 — Feast of Christ the King; renewal of seminary enthronement
- 28–29 — First Quarter exams
- 29 — End of First Quarter
- 30 — First day of classes for Second Quarter
- 31 — Football game

Their lives were miserable, and no hope was in sight.

Then the young, courageous, peasant-born priest arrived, Fr. Damien de Veuster. Son of a Flemish farmer, Damien was filled with sadness and compassion when he heard of the woes from Molokai. He was of the type for this mission, having dealt with dangers before. Once he was threatened by a medicine man who was plotting his death with several of his companions.

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A group photo at our first football game shows the seminary team (in white) and the St. Michael's team (in blue).

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## The leper priest

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They were performing their devilish deeds in a cave, and so Damien climbed on top and watched through an opening. He then jumped through, staff in hand, and smote the sorcerer. He then blessed the cave with holy water and the Sign of the Cross.

When the leper colony of Molokai was rapidly going downhill, Fr. Damien took up the cause. There was a meeting, attended by the Archbishop of the islands. No one was forced to go to Molokai, for such a fate the bishop would force on none. Fr. Damien and two others immediately stepped forth. He said: "My parish is thriving and prosperous, let these two holy apostles remain, and I shall take this mission." Fr. Damien was therefore assigned to the leper colony.

On Molokai, Fr. Damien was appalled by what he saw, so much that he almost fainted. But he would not let this get the best of him, and he immediately set off to work. He improved living conditions and provided medicine, clean water, food, and new houses for the sick. Even plumbing was installed.

But most of all he attended to their souls. Burials and Last Rites were given plentifully, and also frequent sacraments. He cared not whether he caught the disease, and the lepers were surprised and joyful. At last their hope had arrived. He worked lengthy hours, and his holiness made many converts among the lepers.

But, then, after many years of labor, he succumbed to the disease on August 15, 1889, in the odor of sanctity. It was even said that his signs of leprosy were gone when he died. His life was marvelous; his virtues, glorious. Though his body was racked with leprosy, at the resurrection it will be once more renewed, beautiful and radiant.

## A month of practice

*by Dominic Pulliam, gr. 11*

Here at St. Joseph Seminary we have the custom of trying to put together a flag football team. Well this year we have one. We have a total of fifteen players on our team: six seminarians, three high schoolers, and six junior high students.

All are good in different ways. Some are tall and some are not. Though we don't have a lot of taller players, the shorter ones help in a special way, whether it is being able to run fast or being able to catch the football. Our coach is Mr. Kenny Womochil.

During the month of September we have been practicing football as much as possible, whether it be running plays, learning how to block, doing drills, etc. So far, we have been doing very well but it will all be put to the test during our games against St. Michael Academy. Both teams are very competitive so they should be interesting games. So far we have played one game, which was a practice game at Mount St. Michael. We will have a total of four games during

October, beginning on Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. This will be a home game for us.

During the games there are only eight players per team allowed on the field. It's a good thing we have different colored jerseys, or it would get very confusing. The games are an hour long. Though it does not seem like much, it does get very tiring for the rushers, blockers, wide-receivers and the quarterback. But all in all, it is very enjoyable.

We enjoy playing the game, but we do not think that winning is the most important thing. Though getting a win would be very satisfying, we like to play for the honor and glory of God and for our Blessed Mother. They are the most important beings, and if we play or do anything for them, they will reward us with what God thinks is best for our salvation.

## "Fiat voluntas tua"

*by Joseph Vines, gr. 8*

"**T**hy Will Be Done!" As we learn about the life of Christ we notice that Our Lord fulfilled His Father's Will perfectly and carefully. How can we carry out God's Will in our daily lives with cheerfulness and confidence?

As we all know, our mission on earth is to know, love, and serve God, so what then have we to do with other worldly passions that do not bring us closer to eternal salvation? We should live our life as if we were going to die the next day. How much better we would serve God if we only thought about the four last things: Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell. If you died today, do you think God would say that you followed His law perfectly?

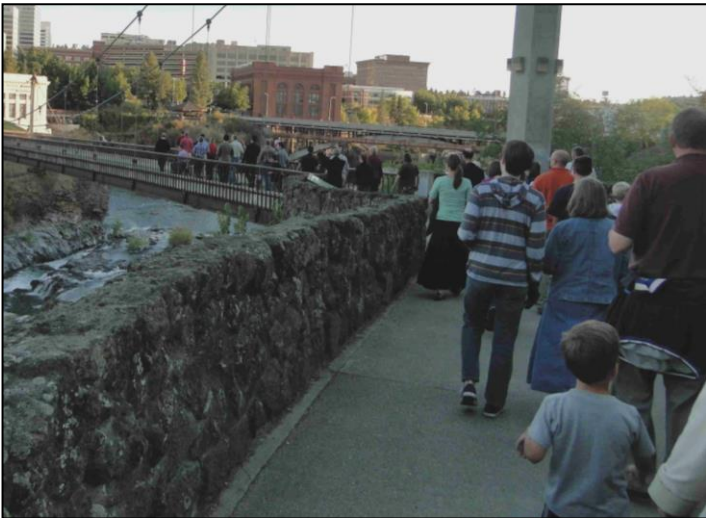
As a seminarian, I do my best to serve my superior's orders perfectly, even if it be a humble and lowly job such as taking care of Victor (the seminary dog) or taking out the trash. In these small and simple jobs I could become a saint. Think about your life. Is there a certain job that makes you feel lowly? God will reward you if you do it joyfully and without complaint.

Look at the life of St. Joseph Cupertino. He was born in a small village of the diocese of Nardo, Italy, to poor parents. Joseph was punished frequently by his mother, which brought him up in a penitential life. He was not a very wise student at the seminary but showed extreme signs of humility and a deep love for the Mass. He wore a hair shirt and completed many difficult penances. He was employed with the meanest chores and was often accused of faults he had not committed, which he suffered with utmost joy. After he was ordained a priest he still mortified his body and fasted for seven years. On Fridays he would eat the bitterest herbs and invented different mortifications, all for the love of God and in payment for his sins.

This extraordinary saint is one to look up to for his penances (which I have barely touched on) and his obedience in serving his superiors' instructions. Let us remember to first think of Christ when we are faced with a lowly mission.

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*On September 13 we joined in the outdoor Rosary procession in Spokane.*



*Two of the seminarians work on supper during our outing to the cabin on Lake Coeur d'Alene.*



*Before each football game, we offer our recreations to God and ask for His blessings.*



*The boys from our parish school join the seminarians for football practice.*



*Joseph was among the seminarians who served tables at the fundraiser dinner.*



*Dominic entertained the guests during our parish auction-dinner fundraiser.*

## “Fiat voluntas tua”

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Think of how Jesus obeyed St. Joseph, the father of the Holy Family and how He was the holiest member of the Family and yet He subjected Himself to follow His parents' orders. If the Son of God fulfilled even the smallest jobs, we should at least do everything we are told for the love of Our Divine Lord.

## The importance of the Holy Eucharist

*by Mark Vincent, gr. 10*

Here at the seminary, we read a spiritual reading book every night before going to bed. I chose a book on the Holy Eucharist called The Blessed Eucharist. It contains many stories about the Eucharist. There are a few instances in which people have disrespected the Holy Eucharist and been punished in dreadful manners. In a few instances, people have been struck dead, because they desecrated the Holy Eucharist or received Communion unworthily.

Once, a man of dignity and some of his servants committed a grave sin and would not confess that sin before receiving Holy Communion. The priest foretold that something bad was going to happen to them. Something did happen, which is quite dreadful to describe.

When going to Communion, you must have the right intention, and first of all know why you are going and what you should do after you receive. If a mortal sin is staining your soul, Our Lord will be spending a miserable time in your soul. It would be the most disgusting 15 minutes He could spend with you. So when you know you have a sin staining your soul, try to understand that you are only making another sin and know who you would be hurting in doing this terrible deed, without first going to confession.

There have been people who have led the most terrible lives who have stayed away from Communion knowingly. On the other hand, when they were to start communicating frequently, their lives would get much better, and they would learn to love Jesus more and more every day. The Holy Eucharist is your spiritual food. You must learn that to survive, you must obtain this Food, and you must spend that time wisely.

Now, ask yourself this question: How would I spend the short time given me with Our Lord? Now that question is actually quite obvious. Talk to Jesus and learn from Him what you need to know. You would ask Him to help you, and in

some way or another, you will receive some help on the matter. Another important factor of Communion is to make an adequate thanksgiving.

There is a story in which a man who received Holy Communion left the Church to go home as soon as he left the communion rail. The priest sent two altar boys after him with lighted candles since Christ was still present in his heart. The time frame between receiving Communion and the presence of Our Lord leaving you is about 15 minutes. You must spend that time in mental prayer with Our Lord.

Here at the seminary we have the practice of receiving Communion every day. It is such a blessing to have the sacraments and they should be fully appreciated. If you are close to a Church and able to receive the sacraments, you should go whenever possible. Ask yourself this question now: When did I last receive the sacraments?

## The beauty of a Catholic cemetery

One of the great blessings we have here at the seminary is the presence of a Catholic cemetery—consecrated ground where the departed members of our parish are laid to rest. Particularly in November the seminarians make visits to the cemetery to pray for the faithful departed. Currently, we have been working at the cemetery to erect an outdoor Calvary scene to remind us all of Christ's sacrifice of His life for our salvation.

We also have an outdoor Way of the Cross on the path leading to the cemetery. Lately, we have procured new stations in bright colors that will withstand the elements. The seminarians have also been working on the cemetery path to beautify and enlarge it.

While not all have access to a Catholic cemetery to visit, however, we can all pray for the faithful departed. In this October mailing we have enclosed intention cards and urge you to record the names of your departed loved ones to be included in our Masses and prayers during November. May we all remember that quote from Scripture: “It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from their sins.”

Once again, we thank you for your support and prayers. Be assured that God will richly reward your support of this work in training future priests. And may He abundantly bless you and your families.

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*

*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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