



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

Sept. 2015

We have arrived at the beginning of another academic year at the seminary at which time we find ourselves getting back to the routine of prayer, school work and sports. During our first week of school, we took our beginning-of-the-year trip to a cabin on Lake Coeur d'Alene. We spent two days there recreating, swimming and all sorts of other fun. During the evenings we watched a few inspirational movies and played games to fill in the time.

Lately, we have been putting up a shed that was donated years ago, which requires the help of everyone available to assemble and position the pieces on the concrete floor. It is a time-consuming project, as you might well imagine, to assemble a storage shed twelve feet wide and approximately twice that dimension in length. But when finished, it will be a nice addition at the seminary.

We have also been making preparations for the annual school auction and dinner by clearing out the gym building of anything that may be an obstruction to this important fund raiser. This project is composed of taking down the walls that separate the basketball court from the rest of the building, allowing a large addition of space for placing dinner tables. When the time comes for the auction to take place, we seminarians get the privilege of managing tables and enjoying the proceedings which make the auction party come to life.

As all these things are taking place, the leaves of the once beautiful green trees are already beginning to take on

the new phase of falling and covering the ground. This brings on the look and feel that the adventure of another school year has begun. So, dear reader enjoy all the blessings God has given to you, especially the remainder of summer before the green is covered in blankets of leaves and eventually snow. And please also pray for us at the seminary. May God bless each of us during this new school year, which has begun to take life.

-- a seminarian

Ora et Labora

by Mark Vincent, gr.11

We all find ourselves at this time back on the normal seminary routine of saying our daily prayers, listening to spiritual talks, doing the dishes, living through school and the rest of seminary life. The summer has come and gone so fast we could begin to wonder who turned the page to the new school year. God has brought upon us yet another year to possibly find ourselves becoming religious priests, brothers, or just a well-educated Catholic layman. We are allowed to live but a few steps away from the House of God and live under the same roof, as well as take advantage of the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

The secondary reason we are here is for our school life. This year we have Latin, math, English literature, a course on government, theology, and physics. For our seventh period we all get together and participate in

Sept. Calendar

- 5 - Our secretary's birthday
- 8 - Feast of Our Lady's Nativity; special Observances; Chanted Vespers
- 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; mid-quarter
- 29 - Feast of St. Michael the Archangel; no homework

physical education or choir. Latin, math and theology are taught by Fr. Benedict. English literature is taught by our dedicated teacher and secretary, Mrs. Salgado. Physics is taught by Mr. Gerard Keaveney. Government is taught by our loving second mother, Mrs. Gallagher, and P. E. and choir are taught on specified days of the week by Fr. Anthony Marie.

After an intense six-and-a-half hours of schoolwork and physical education, we do a few assigned chores and go on to have free time until Rosary. After Rosary, we eat dinner and then begin our study hall as soon as dishes are completed. Once we are done with our studies we get to go downstairs and play pool, ping-pong, chess or just anything that keeps us playfully busy until 8:45, at which time we have spiritual reading

Ora et Labora

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and confessions, before ending the day with night prayers and Compline.

How different every new year is with getting new seminarians and changes of subjects, but how very much the same it is as we are all here for the same reason every year: to get a good Catholic education while gaining an insight on what the religious life is like by means of our schedule and prayer life. Finding ourselves back in school, we try to strive harder to attain good grades. Getting those straight A's is what we would all like to see on our grade cards. A good combination of working on schoolwork, daily chores and our daily prayers keep the body healthy. Please pray for all of us to aid us in this important task of finding out what our true vocations are.

Plums, Plums, and More Plums

by Benedict Pulliam, gr. 9

Of all the work we could do, we had to pick plums! Although they're good, they take a while to harvest with only a few workers. Here at St. Joseph's Seminary we have apple trees, pear trees and plum trees that were planted long ago. We are grateful to those who planted them. If they hadn't, we never would have been able to enjoy the sweet taste of plums on a hot day.

The plums are sometimes fun to harvest, but after a while you start to lose the "fun," and end up wanting to stop. So to avoid that, we work for a least an hour to an hour-and-a-half, then take a small break. Long enough for us to grab a snack (maybe a few plums and a granola bar) and rest a little. Then we head back out for more work. We probably filled around 10 good sized boxes of plums (two trees done), and still two trees to go. But all together... We got it done! Now on to pitting.

Pitting the plums was fun, yet tiring for our fingers. Most of the seeds were pretty stubborn to get out. They were like little kids not wanting to give away their candy. Then, after a while of getting an abundant amount in large bowls, we finally started cooking them, then making them into juice or sauce. It's very good and simple to make. Just takes time to get it done. We have more than we can eat. So we freeze it.

The more we work, the easier it gets... sometimes. You also have a lot of time to say some prayers if you want. Or you can sing, which we did quite a lot. Quite fun actually. It's the heat that makes it hard sometimes. But with everyone's help, it makes the burden easier and the work get done quicker.

So overall, we seminarians have had a good start to the year so far. It's fun to be able to get outside and work occasionally, rather than stay inside all the time. It can be fun playing pool or ping-pong, but after a while you start to want other stuff to do. So I hope that we have a good year here at the seminary and hope that we all can strive to get through the year. God Bless you.

Work Around the Seminary

by Joseph Vines, gr. 10

Another year begins! Goodbye summer! I can honestly say that I am ready for school and happy to begin another year. Another school year means more work both mentally and physically. The biggest project going on now is the construction of a storage shed.

Since last school year the spot away from the seminary where the pigs were was filled with trees and brush but now it's all cleared away and a concrete slab was poured to serve as a base for the storage shed. Now we are moving on to putting up the shed and hydro-seeding the area around it.

The first thing we had to do was clear the metal pieces out of the gym. There was a lot of heavy metal and it took us about twenty-five minutes to clear out the metal and get it on the trailer. Then we drove the trailer full of metal to the concrete slab next to the pig pen. After that we worked on assembling the hut using the metal parts and nuts and screws. To assemble the pieces correctly you have to lift a piece a little and push the screws in, then use the nuts to tighten the pieces together. The work isn't hard, other than the fact that you have to bend your back to reach over the pieces to tighten the screws while holding the nut. The shed is going to have a dome shape and be used for mostly storage.

We are all excited for the new shed. It will be easier to take care of the animals and it will help to get the workshops more organized. So, all in all, this new project won't be in vain and our labors will surely be worth it. Please continue to pray for the success of our upcoming projects, but we have to remember that God's Will is the ultimate goal. God bless you and may we all have a happy new school year!

Beginning My First Year at the Seminary

by Robert Kolinsky, gr. 10

This is my first year at the Seminary and it's nice and pleasant. I arrived on Friday, the first seminarian to arrive, and my first job was picking up logs and branches from a tree that had been cut down. Squirrel hunting was



The seminarians greatly enjoyed jumping in lake Coeur d'Alene.



Some even ventured to jump off the high platform.



We had a bumper crop of purple plums this year.



Seminarians are assembling the individual pieces of the storage shed.



Every day begins with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.



Loading the metal pieces of the storage shed was hard work, but with happy faces!

Beginning My First Year at the Seminary

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an adventure and then around of disc golf on our property, all new to me. The food is good and Idaho is beautiful, but the wildfires are threatening.

Life in the seminary is what I expected, with the prayer life and work. For work we have been moving heavy metal structures into the truck and putting them together to make a shed. Also, one of my jobs is to take care of the dog Victor, a brown lab. And let's not forget the plums. There are so many plums to pick. Mary Antonia, the cook made a delicious plum sauce. We have a little mini farm with our own eggs and pigs. There are of course dishes, laundry, and other home chores we do in the seminary.

School has started and I am now continuing Latin study. Right now it is just review. It is pretty simple at this moment until I get to my level. During our breaks we play pool or ping-pong, and after school in the gym we can play basketball, which we'll be playing this year along with football. This will be my first year taking choir.

I pray that God will bless my first year at the seminary. Please pray for all of us.

The Initial Enthusiasm

The initial enthusiasm of students at the start of a new school year is a wonderful thing. Even though they may not be willing to admit it, most children and teenagers are happy when September rolls around. Towards the end of the summer they get bored and are anxious to get back into school. (Well, maybe "anxious" is an exaggeration when it comes to teenagers, but they generally are glad to get back to learning.)

Experienced teachers know that they must make a good use of this initial zeal, for it will not last. As the school year matures, students gradually lose that spark, and towards the spring a tedium sets in, as they (and their teachers) begin to count down the days to summer. Consequently, we have to capitalize on the initial gusto of young people.

Thus, we begin the year with an emphasis on procedures and rules. Teachers know that time spent on

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drilling these routines into their students will pay dividends down the road. If a teacher neglects to develop a classroom discipline in the beginning weeks of school, it will be hard to reverse course and instill it later. Moreover, students crave order and appreciate knowing the boundaries set by their teachers. They want to know what to expect. The goal here is to create the optimal learning environment and to help the students develop good study habits.

This lesson in teaching skills has an application to our spiritual life. From time to time we experience an enthusiasm, a fervor or sensible consolation in the practice of our faith. Gradually, however, it wears away and a tedium sets in to our prayer life. Spiritual directors counsel a judicious use of those periods of consolation, and patience and persistence when they are absent. In fact, we find in the lives of the saints that God tested them with "spiritual dryness." As one author writes, to say "Blessed be God" in time of spiritual dryness is worth a thousand "Blessed be God's" in time of consolation. May we all persevere in the practice of our faith, both in good and bad times.

As we start a new school year here at the minor seminary – our 17th – be assured of a daily remembrance in our prayers for our benefactors. We need your support to continue this crucial work of the education and formation of future priests. Please pray for our seminarians and that God will send us many more. May God bless you and your families.

– Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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