



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

February 2016

During this past month of January, we had a few memorable highlights in sports and activities which demand a recount. We have started basketball which provides an improved athleticism for the participants. A few games have been scheduled to test our participation. Skiing at Silver Mountain Resort is a field trip not often forgotten. It was a rough beginning experience for the novices among us, as skiing almost never comes naturally. Losing control and going head over heels was the first lesson. Going down the trails was a completely different situation. They featured a few ups and downs, which triggered the senses to be ready for that sort of thing. For one or other of us, there was a sharp turn in the trail which did not allow preparation, often forcing the rest of us to make a wrong movement and thus enter the frozen melee with a screaming adrenaline. An all-day adventure containing mixed feelings of stress and fun brought us back home, our brains ready to shut down. Dinner however, brought back some sensation and a game of pool was in order.

The greatest highlight, however, was the priest meetings held at the end of the month. This brought most of the Fathers here including the bishop, to have dinner and games. It was a good opportunity to get to know the priests, or learn more about them. We found out each other's competitive side as a ping pong or pool ball was sent across table with either reckless or accurate results. Although the time passed quickly, it was, nevertheless, a most enjoyable evening.

As we begin the season of Septuagesima, we are confronted with

the idea of Lent, only a couple of weeks away. It gives us the incentive to start preparing the best we can, to make a good Lent. This coming season becomes the penitentiary of our souls, as we correct our current faults through acts of mortification and prayer. Let us resolve, dear readers, that we might not look upon Lent as the criminal looks at his awaiting punishment, but with a heart and soul ready and willing to perform the penances which will in the end, give us a blessed and joyous Easter Season.

His Holy and Sacred Passion

by Benedict Pulliam, gr. 9

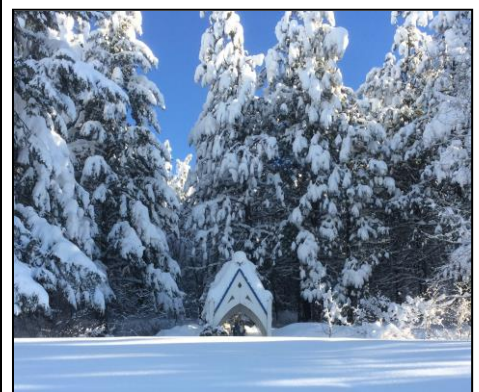
This being the month of the Sacred Passion of Our Divine Lord, I would like to reflect upon the love by which He suffered for us. Jesus went so far as to shed every last drop of His blood for our sins. "Greater love than this no man hath, than to lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). How would we feel if our friend did something for us to get us out of trouble? Wouldn't we feel obligated to try to make it up to him? In this way Our Lord was scourged, crowned with thorns, beaten along the way to Calvary, and died for us; yet we still offend Him by our sins.

I saw a little quote from a holy card saying, "Do you love me Lord? I cried, 'This much' He said, and opened wide His arms upon the Cross, and died." The Crucifix is a reminder of how much our Divine Redeemer loved us. "For God so loved the world, as to give his only begotten Son; that whosoever may believe in him, may not perish, but may have life everlasting" (John 3:16).

February calendar

- 02 – Feast of the Purification
BVM; Candlemas
ceremonies; no homework
- 04 – Clayton's Birthday
- 10 – Ash Wednesday ceremonies
- 16 – Basketball Games
- 17 – Mid-quarter
- 19-22 – Annual Lenten Retreat

"For Our Lord was not sent into the world to judge the world, but that the world may be saved by Him" (John 3:17). He died for us so that we may have life everlasting. He went through the most excruciating pain to redeem us and open the gateway to heaven. There is no possible way that all of mankind could pay Him back for what He did for us. We are in deep debt to Our Lord, so we should, in all that we can, do our best to make it up to Our Most loving Lord who bore everything for us out of love.



The beautiful snow-covered trees tower over Our Lady's shrine.

My Guide On Flying

by Clayton Wright, gr. 12

The trip from Spokane seemed like it lasted an eternity, as I made my way from St. Joseph Seminary to the Spokane Airport. Once there, the boarding process started immediately. Everyone was standing and waiting in their established groups. My group was the second to board. For a beginner in the process of flying, it would seem like there is no reason for groups or seating arrangements. However, after the second time I flew, I saw that it creates order out of a chaotic environment.

When I finally got on the plane, I had a brief waiting period as the pilot and ground crew checked the operating systems and the outside of the airplane. When the okay was given, the pilot made his way down the runway to the designated "take off area." Once there, the pilot did a final check, then revved up the engines and proceeded to a speed of 225mph, and with an engine thrust of 22,000lbs we shot into the air, reaching a cruising speed of 536mph. As the plane shot down the runway, I was flung back into my seat feeling every bump. I felt the loss of gravity for a split second as the plane lifted into the air. Ah, finally a smooth ride!

As the flight progressed the steward and stewardess brought a cart loaded with refreshments down the tightly cramped aisle. The plane hit turbulence and the ride got bumpy for a couple of seconds. My mind thought, "Wow! What's happening! Are we going down?" Seconds passed; things calmed. "Whew! That must have just been turbulence." After a few more hours at flight, I finally touched down at my layover in Phoenix, Arizona, before taking off for the last airport...my final destination.

Finally, I met my family with hugs, tears and laughter. I got my bags and headed to the car for a long ride, all the while sleeping on the uneventful drive back home. As the car pulled into the driveway, I was startled awake by the jostle of the car and the hollering of siblings and friends. I walked down the pathway that leads to the front door. Alas! I got a surprise from the family pets who bounded in my direction leaping onto my lap. I tried to get my luggage to my room, almost tripping on all sorts of toys and other objects. I made my way to my bed and just flopped down to sleep for the next 4-5 hours, because sleeping on the plane was not a part of my agenda.

After the short Christmas vacation, which seemed to fly by almost as fast as the plane, I had to go back, leaving all behind for the love of God. Hopefully, by this time next year I will be in Mater Dei Seminary in preparation for the holy priesthood.

The Ultimate Goal

by Mark Vincent, gr. 11

Nowadays many teenage and young adult boys and girls, with all the immorality surrounding them, have very

little knowledge of what purity or morality is. For an everyday example, at this time of year you might be enlightened to think about snow. If you do not have snow, think about rain or whatever other precipitation you might be aware of. If you have taken a course in science, you have learned that water is evaporated into the atmosphere, where it is cleansed in the process of becoming a precipitant form which is totally purified, cleansed of any blemish. If you look at snow, do you see natural spots of any kind; if not, what do you see? You can only see the beauty and purity of God's creation. Looking into your memory bank should bring some of God's other creatures to mind.

Dominic Savio was renowned and venerated as a saint because of his spectacular purity and humility. During this article, I would like to speak briefly about the life of St. Dominic Savio.

On April 2, 1842, a child, who would later become a saint, was born in a poor but well deserved home. The newborn child Dominic Savio was destined by God to stand out as a model for all youth. His home was about ten miles out of Turin, where he was bound by God's will to live and die. As a young child, he was very conscientious of reciting his daily prayers. Everything he did was only to please God and his parents. If he went to make a visit to the parish Church and it was locked, he would kneel down in front of the doors no matter what the weather condition and pray fervently until the porter arrived to unlock the church.

Told that he was to receive the Holy Eucharist for the first time, his face beamed with radiance; and resolution after resolution met his delighted mother's ears. One day, he learned about Don Bosco and the oratory for boys. Soon after he joined their fellowship and became a prominent example for the other boys. He heard how easy it was to become a saint and how important it was for salvation. He resolved to go to all necessary ends, and when he saw an act of imminent revenge, he would break it up by explaining that they would only wound Our Lord. When he heard someone call out blasphemies, he would fraternally counter this bad habit and convince the culprit to amend his ways. Until his young saintly death, he would frequently say the words: "Praised be Jesus Christ!"

Let us therefore resolve to imitate young Dominic Savio and become a saint, as he found and understood it to be the ultimate goal. It is to be hoped and prayed that we all one day

become as perfect a saint as the little model of youth, St. Dominic Savio of Turin.



The rosary is prayed every day at 5 pm.



Mark worked hard to clear the snow off the church's roof.



Mrs. Salgado, Mrs. Gallagher, Mary Antonia, and Sister Veronica prepared the annual CMRI priest's dinner.



Seminarians watch as Fr. Brendan Hughes takes a shot.



There is a lot of fun opening presents.



Mark and Ben assist Fr. Benedict in blessing the Epiphany holy water.



Robert is ready to roam the Silver Mountain trails.

The Season Of Mortification

by Robert Kolinsky, gr. 10

In this year of two thousand sixteen we have an early start into Lent. Ash Wednesday is on February 10. This, of course, means the ending of the Christmas season. The official ending of the Christmas time is the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary which is on February 2nd.

The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday, which begins the forty days of fast and abstinence. This is when we receive on our foreheads the blessed ashes, made from the burned palms left over from the previous year's Palm Sunday.

There are forty days in Lent, with Holy Saturday being the last day. Lent is the preparation for the feast of Our Lord's glorious Resurrection. In Lent we do penance, give alms and perform acts of mortification for the love of God. It is a time of sorrow. This is the time of year to really try to sanctify ourselves. It is wise to start out strong and take one day at a time during Lent. By doing this we may more easily achieve our goals during this season.

During Lent we should increase our spiritual reading and perform acts of charity towards our neighbor. For penances, we can offer sacrifices to God such as giving up a snack or types of music we enjoy (aside from classical and religious music) and so on. But of course, in order to gain merit from any penance we perform, it is necessary to be in the state of grace. Frequent confession and Holy Communion is an excellent practice during Lent. I pray that we may all succeed in our goals and have a holy Lent.

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.

Youthful Idealism

Every year in mid to late January, our seminary welcomes about 20 priests for a visit. This is an annual event the seminarians thoroughly enjoy, even though it lasts for just

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.

a few hours. Sometimes priests can forget the effect such an event can have on young men who aspire to the priesthood.

In this regard I am reminded of a similar event during my youth. Our seminary held a barbecue every year in May, attended by a good number of priests. There would be a ball game and meal for a few hours on a Saturday afternoon toward the end of the school year. I recall being particularly inspired by one older priest, who represented to me the true priestly ideal. Observing him inspired me to want to become like him.

Youth is idealistic. Young people are attracted by solid examples of piety and virtue and drawn to imitate them. That is why this event is so important. Likewise, a boy who regularly serves Mass is around his pastor frequently. He gets to know the priest in their interchanges in the sacristy or about the church property. Such communications can spark the idealism of youth and draw the boy toward the priesthood.

God can and does use various means to attract the hearts of the young to his service. Knowing this, we must strive to always be shining examples of virtue and dedication to the service of God. As the author of The Imitation of Christ astutely observes, "As our eye observes others, so also we are observed by others." May we always be a good example of Christ-like living to all who behold us.

Again, we thank you for your support of our seminary. May you have a blessed Lent, and may our dear Lord and Savior bless you and your loved ones.

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.

**St. Joseph Seminary
15384 N. Church Rd.
Rathdrum, ID 83858-7650**