



# THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

February 2017

Towards the end of January we enjoyed our yearly dinner with the priests of, and affiliated with, CMRI. Around twenty-five priests attended and afterwards we joined with them in various games like table tennis, pool and chess.

Throughout this past month, we have been anxiously awaiting the completion of the brand new seminary kitchen, which gives that area of the building a modern look. We now enjoy new cabinets, countertops, floor, stove, refrigerator and sink. The kitchen is the focal point of every home and therefore should be functional but also cosmetically pleasing to the eye. Now we finally have a fitting kitchen for the seminary.

Now as we begin the month of February, the blessing of candles is the first major liturgical celebration of this month. Candles have been used from the early days of humanity to give light and, as we have just recently learned in Health class, to heal ailments such as ear aches, sore throats and others. The blessing of candles takes place on Candlemas Day, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. As you know, blessed candles take an important place in the liturgy.

We thank you for your spiritual and financial support which has helped our seminary go on through the years. We have seen major improvements in all aspects due to your generosity. Please continue to

pray for us, and for our country and our new president that he will govern according to God's will. May God bless you.

## A Truckload of Fun

by Mark Vincent, gr. 12

The first visual of snow falling from the sky makes most grumble at the thought of shoveling more snow. That one snowflake often computes to thousands and millions within a few minutes. A wait of a few hours might see a few inches on the ground, composed of trillions of snowflakes. It is tremendous what our Creator can do. Each snowflake is different from the next, and yet there are trillions upon trillions falling from the sky.

At St. Joseph Seminary, we have seen this same incident occur in our midst. This year we have received an

## February calendar

- 5 – Basketball game
- 2 – Purification BVM  
Feastday; Candlemas ceremonies; no homework day
- 10 – Skiing outing
- 22 – Mid-quarter

amount of snowfall that equates to that of the 2007-2008 winter season. Seeing six inches of fresh snow on the ground daily means that another hard day's work is at stake. It also means that there is an ever-growing amount of snow on the buildings.

This winter, the snow piled on top of the buildings, as I have just mentioned. Only this time it would not come off. The influx of cold temperatures caused the snow to



*The seminarians lead the procession to the cemetery for the burial of a baptized baby that died a few weeks after birth.*

remain on the roofing, creating a thick and heavy layer of ice. We were able to shovel off our church, gym, school and other buildings, but the seminary roof was not so safely accessible, due to its height. Therefore, we were forced to wait for warmer weather. When it came, it took out the power which was transported by means of wires at the roof line. In other ways as well, the snow has been a bit of a nuisance this year.

Despite being the bother it is, snow has also given us the opportunity to have unprecedented

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## A Truckload of Fun

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fun. We went on a ski trip on the twentieth, which was a great source of fun for all. Perfect conditions with sun and minor wind made for a pleasant atmosphere. The most enjoyable part about skiing is the accomplishment of having made it down a steep slope. Skill is accomplished very quickly when skiing, because it is easy to learn from your mistakes. Therefore Dominic, who is new to the sport, was fairly flying by the end of the day.

Besides skiing, there is always the traditional manner of having fun in the snow—sledding. Having steep hills here at the seminary, it is not difficult to find a worthy hill to slide down. Once the snow is packed down, there is a truckload of fun awaiting.

As we have fun and enjoy the spirit of Christmas, we should not get too caught up in the pleasures of the world, but should remember to think about the coming season, Septuagesima, which is the prelude to Lent. There comes a time for celebration and a time for penance. The question would be whether we are keeping these things in their necessary categories and living good Catholic lives.

## Getting Into Basketball

*by Robert Kolinsky, gr. 11*

Now, due to the bitter cold and lots of snow, the sport of basketball becomes prominent at the seminary. Practice for the season began in November. This is my



*The seminarians helped Father Anthony shovel snow off the roofs of our buildings.*

second year of playing the sport, since I got introduced to it last year.

Now in this sport there are the dynamics of shooting, passing, and dribbling. Of course to get better there involves persistent practice. Here we have Mr. Linder as our coach, and this is his second year coaching us. Our

team is known as the St. Joseph Sentinels.

We have already gone through most of our short season, and I can say I've seen many improvements among my teammates. We had some trouble on our teamwork early on, which cost us a few games. But now we have achieved success, as we finally started to get the feel of it. This showed in our most recent game, which was a victory.

Another thing that helped us to learn the ropes to basketball is that our coach took us to a college game after Christmas break. And that was pretty interesting. I don't normally watch basketball, however. It's usually more fun to play it.

Now, above all, even though we have the time for play, there is also a time for work and prayer. The progression of our spiritual life must always come first. And this is the purpose of recreation—it refreshes us so that we can continue in work and prayer. Too much recreation is not good, so this is where self-control comes into play. Please keep me in your prayers and I hope you have a holy 2017.



*Coach Linder gives instructions to the basketball team.*

## Always be Thankful

*by Dominic Lehnin, gr. 10*

These past few months we have been very busy shoveling snow and remodeling the seminary kitchen.

Mark's dad and grandpa helped with this project, doing most of the building and installing. We seminarians were just there to help with whatever needed to be done.

So before Christmas break, we started to clear out the kitchen to get it ready for the new cabinets which Mark's dad built. During Christmas break, they took out everything from the kitchen, including part of a wall, and then put the new cabinets in place.

When I returned from Christmas break everything was a mess—dishes and pots everywhere. I couldn't really see the floor at all. For the meals, we had to go over to the

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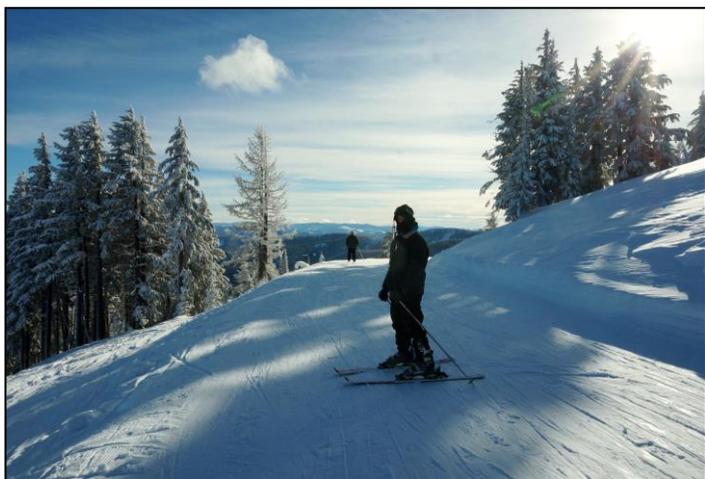
*During the priests' visit, everyone enjoyed some recreation.*



*The seminarians joined the priests in reciting Vespers from the Divine Office.*



*His Excellency receives a postulant into the religious congregation in the seminary chapel.*



*Dominic pauses for a moment during the first ski outing.*



*Two of the visiting priests pose with Mrs. Gallagher during the priests' visit.*



*A January view from the second floor deck at the seminary.*

## Always be Thankful

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parish hall in the church basement in order to eat or else go get the supper and eat in the classroom. But as the days went on, the kitchen saw more and more improvements. Soon we were able to start putting all the dishes and things back into the cabinets. That was a relief because now we had more room to eat.

Then finally the granite countertops came! That was a huge improvement. After the counters were installed things started to wrap up. They got the floor in and the stove and now the kitchen is finally functional. The only thing we are waiting on now is the fridge, which is not a big deal because we still have the old one. There are still little things that they need to do, like installing the backsplash for the counters. But that doesn't really matter, because now we can finally use the kitchen.

The kitchen project was finished just in time for the priest meetings. The day that they came, we got the stove in and the dining room back together. Then we had a fun time with the priests. But before that, we prayed the Rosary. Then we went and ate dinner, after which we played pool, ping-pong, and chess. The priests really got into the ping-pong games. One priest even broke an ornament. He served the ball, but instead of a ball it was a bulb! Everyone laughed till they were in tears. It was a great time. After the priests left we had a good night's sleep and thanked God for such great timing for the kitchen.

God is very good. He provided the finished kitchen (although not yet completely done) just in time for the priest meetings. So every day, we should be thanking God for His blessings and gifts to us, because every day God gives us countless graces and blessings.

## To Serve the King

Where do vocations come from? Primarily, of course, vocations are the result of prayer, especially on the part of parents for their children. Vocations are also the result of Catholic homes, where virtue reigns and where the spirit of the world is banished. But also, vocations are often inspired by the atmosphere of a Catholic school and by the liturgy.

Among the various means that God uses to draw a boy to aspire to the priesthood, there is none greater than the

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. When a boy serves at the altar, he is in the closest proximity to the priest and to the Blessed Sacrament. He hears the whispered words of consecration; he rings the bell and presents the cruets; he holds the paten to safeguard the Blessed Sacrament. There can be no greater privilege for a layman than this!

It is there, in the sanctuary, serving the King of kings, that many a boy first aspires to become another Christ. Knowing this, good parents are only too eager to offer their sons for the service of the altar. Whether it is getting up early on a Saturday morning to drive their son to the church, or taking him to a meeting for the altar boys, parents should count it all a blessing to see their own son there assisting the priest at the altar of God. May our boys and young men treasure the privilege of serving as altar boys, and may many of them find therein the call to become priests. Let us pray for that intention.

We are most grateful for your prayers and support for our seminary. Please also pray for more young men to join us at the minor seminary. We assure you of our prayers for you and your families, that we all might be ever more pleasing to God.

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*

<p>To be an Altar Boy <i>author unknown</i></p>	<p>No grander mission surely, Could saints or men enjoy, No heart should love more purely, Than yours, my altar boy.</p>
<p>To be Christ's page at the altar, To serve Him freely there, Where even the angels falter, Bowed low in reverent prayer.</p>	<p>God bless you, lad, forever, And keep you in His care, And guard you that you never, Belie the robes you wear.</p>
<p>To touch the throne most holy, To hand the gifts for the feast, To see Him meekly, lowly, Descend at the word of the priest.</p>	<p>For white bespeaks untainted, A heart both tried and true, And red tells love the sainted, And holy martyrs knew.</p>
<p>To hear man's poor petition, To sound the silver bell, When He in sweet submission, Comes down with us to dwell.</p>	<p>Throughout life, then, endeavor God's graces to employ, And be in heart forever, A holy altar boy.</p>