



# THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

April 2017

During the month of March, many things have been going on which it behooves me to mention. Winter is over and we are today enjoying beautiful weather. We are getting torrents of rain, but that will be good in the long run for summer.

Recently, we finished our chess tournament, which began in mid-March. Everyone has become proficient at the game, and we have found we are all quite evenly-matched. The tournament was “double-elimination,” which means each contestant must lose twice before dropping out of the melee. We made sure to complete the tournament before Passiontide, so that we could concentrate on the spirit of the season, without any distractions.

We spent the first few days of this month of April participating in the beautiful Forty Hours Adoration. The opening and closing ceremonies included processions of the Blessed Sacrament in the church, together with the chanting of the Litanies. On the first night we took turns making holy hours in the quiet darkness. The Forty Hours is a wonderful opportunity to spend time before Our Lord, in reparation for the sins committed against Him.

We will shortly have the Holy Week ceremonies and the celebration of Easter. These ceremonies are very detailed and precise with

special blessings and orations. We must rejoice and be glad after Easter, thanking God heartily for the grace of redemption, which Jesus accomplished by His death on the Cross. During Easter Week we will have our annual Spring Vacation, which will be a welcome reprieve from studies.

On April 28, we will begin the preparation for Total Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Many of us have already made the Total Consecration, but it is a good idea to renew it annually. This is the profession of Holy Slavery to Our Lord and Our Lady. It is a one-month period in which we say various prayers in preparation for the consecration. I would encourage all of you to make the Act of Total Consecration and persevere in the promises therein. May you all have a Blessed Easter. We thank you for your support. (a seminarian)

## April Calendar

- 1-2 – Annual Forty Hours Adoration
- 13-14 – Holy Thursday/Good Friday
- 16 – Easter Sunday; children’s Easter Egg Hunt at the seminary; no classes all week
- 24 – Classes resume
- 25 – Procession of the Major Litanies
- 28 – Feast of St. Louis Marie de Montfort; begin preparation for Holy Slavery

## Our Lady’s Missionary

by Kevin LeStage, gr. 9

St. Louis Marie Grignon de la Bacheleraie, was born on January 31, 1673, in the little town of Montfort-la-Canne, which is located in Brittany, France. When he was 12

he was sent as a day pupil to the Jesuit College at Rennes, where he never failed to visit the church before and after class. He prayed to Mary and asked her for all his needs both spiritual and temporal. He spoke constantly to his brothers and sisters and to all his small companions both by word and example about Jesus and Mary.

At the age of nineteen, Louis set out on foot to make

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*We pray the Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent.*

## Our Lady's Missionary

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a 200 mile journey to Paris to study for the priesthood. On his journey he met many poor people dressed in rags and with little food. He gave away all his money to the poor and exchanged his clothing with them. When Louis arrived in Paris he did all he could to help the copious swarms of beggars. His loving corporal works of mercy brought comfort to numerous sick.

Saint Louis was ordained a priest in 1700, at the age of 27. He said his first Mass at St. Sulpice Parish, in front of an altar he had cared for and decorated for a number of years. His way of saying Mass made a strong impression upon the people present. St. Louis De Montfort had wanted to become a missionary in Canada, but he was told he had to remain in France. So he set about to see what good he could do for others.

He began as a chaplain at a hospital and cared for the sick and poor there, often giving what he had to those less fortunate than himself. He also started a religious community of young women whom he called Daughters of Wisdom. This order cared for the sick and attended to the education of the children.

St. Louis-Marie discovered his great gift for preaching at the age of 32, and committed himself to it for the rest of his life. He walked with a staff that had a cross at the top of it. He met with such great success that he often drew crowds of thousands to hear his sermons in which he encouraged frequent communion and devotion to Mary.

St. Louis De Montfort's work and simple life exhausted his great physical strength. He died on April 28, 1716. His devotion to Mary, love of Jesus, and thinking of others is an example for us all.



*With help from the seminary guild, the seminarians prepared a delicious meal for our annual breakfast fund-raiser.*

## Keeping Watch with Jesus

*by Mark Vincent, gr. 12*

April is the month in honor of the Blessed Sacrament. As such, we held our annual Forty Hours Devotions on the first few days of the month. It is wonderful that we have enough parishioners to cover all the hours; otherwise, we would not be doing it in the first place. Since the Blessed Sacrament is exposed, at least two persons must be in the church at all times to guard It. We seminarians signed up for at least an hour each on the first night of the devotion, so that one of us was present throughout the night.

Tradition holds that Our Lord was in the tomb for part of three days, totaling forty hours. This devotion is held to commemorate the time Our Lord was neglected in the tomb. The devotion began about the year 1537 in Milan. A period of forty hour prayer was held in ancient times for the same reason, but it did not necessarily entail the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. A number of priests and laymen encouraged this devotion, leading to its development.

It happened that the officials of the city of Milan decided to turn over their land to the Holy Roman Empire. The French would not stand for it and arrived at the gates of Milan with an army, threatening to seize it. The emperor was determined to keep what was his by right, but was far outnumbered by the French. About the same time, a group of people decided to start a series of the Forty Hours Adoration. They pledged to keep it going throughout the diocese for a year, while they awaited an upheaval by the French army. Scarcely had they made the promise and initiated it, than the French army turned their horses and headed for home. In commemoration and admiration of this event, Catholics have tried to make it a point to have the Forty Hours going continuously throughout the year for centuries. Plenary and partial indulgences may be gained under the usual conditions for spending time before the Blessed Sacrament.

To learn to love and admire the Blessed Sacrament more, I would suggest reading *The Blessed Eucharist*, by Father Michael Muller. This book is packed with facts and stories about the Blessed Sacrament. There are many books concerning the topic, but I recommend this one in particular. Of course, nothing enkindles our devotion more than by spending time with Our Lord with the intention to make progress in the spiritual life. We should always be trying to make an advancement spiritually. Let us all resolve to spend as much time as we can before the Blessed Sacrament.



*We just wrapped up the annual chess tournament, which included plenty of exciting games.*



*The seminarians and High School boys sang the High Mass on Saint Joseph's feastday.*



*Mr. Keaveney's singing Irish bear fascinated the little ones at the Saint Patrick breakfast.*



*Father Anthony offers a Lenten Mass in the seminary chapel.*



*The seminarians made Saint Joseph cords, which were blessed on his feastday.*



*We celebrated Dominic's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday this past month.*

## The Passion and Death of Christ

by Dominic Lehnen, gr. 10

After the Last Supper Our Lord went out to the garden of Olives with the apostles to pray for strength for what He was about to suffer. During this time, Our Lord suffered much, knowing of all that He would have to go through. He also suffered from the weight of the sins that have been and will ever be committed. He prayed to His heavenly Father, “Let this cup pass from Me, but not My will but Thine be done.” We should follow this example of Our Lord. We should accept any sufferings or crosses that God sends to us saying, “Thy will be done.”

At midnight Judas, with a band of about twenty soldiers, walked into the garden. He came up to Jesus and kissed him saying, “Hail Rabbi.” Jesus answered, “You betray the Son of Man with a kiss?” The soldiers then came and bound Jesus and took Him away, mocking and beating Him mercilessly all the way to the house of Caiphas, the high priest.

When in the hall of Caiphas, Jesus was falsely accused of being a blasphemer. He was also very cruelly and continuously beaten and spat upon. After this, the soldiers locked Jesus up in the prison for the night where Jesus was given no rest at all. In the morning, Jesus was led before Pilate. Pilate asked the Pharisees of what Jesus was



*Father Dominic Radecki preached the annual Lenten retreat this year.*

accused. They said of blaspheming. Pilate then asked Jesus questions, but he found no cause of death in Jesus. But still Pilate ordered Jesus to be scourged. After the 45 minutes of cruel scourging, Jesus was crowned with thorns. Pilate,

rather to please men than God, gave Jesus to the crowd who wanted Him to be crucified.

Jesus was then given His cross to carry to the place where He was to be crucified. On this journey Jesus fell many times and suffered many cruel insults. But He also met His mother on the way, giving Him much joy and new strength. Finally, He arrived at the place called the Skull, where He was to be crucified. After three hours of hanging on the cross, Jesus expired after saying, “Father into Thy hands I commend My spirit.”

Notice how much suffering Our Lord endured for us. What are we doing in return? Are we giving Our Lord our whole self, all of our love? In the future, let us make sure to give every moment to Our Lord in thanksgiving for what He did for us.

## The Beauty of the Liturgy

Truly, Holy Week is the most beautiful time of the liturgical year. As we priests grow older in age and experience, the ceremonies of this week of grace become more dear—and, easier! I recall my younger days as a priest, sweating through the ceremonies, even after having spent many hours studying the rubrics and rehearsing with the servers.

But now, after repeatedly performing these magnificent ceremonies, they have become a joy. Everything flows smoothly, and I rarely need to look up a rubric. When the ceremonies progress with ease, it is possible to appreciate them more, recalling the words of Psalm 83: “How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul yearns and pines for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.”

It is this love for the liturgy, and particularly for the ceremonies of Holy Week, that a seminarian must imbibe from his youth. One of the many advantages of attending a minor seminary is the seminarians’ involvement in the sacred liturgy. By absorbing this appreciation in their teenage years, they will make good priests who will treasure the liturgy of Holy Mother Church.

We thank you for your support and prayers and wish all our supporters a most blessed and joyous Easter. May God bless you and your loved ones.

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*