



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

June 2017

The past month has seen a flurry of activity here. Our regular daily devotions during May were capped by a beautiful outdoor Rosary procession. The weather was perfect as we processed around the grounds, carrying the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. We stopped at the outdoor shrine of Our Blessed Mother where Father lead in the recitation of the Little Crown of the Blessed Virgin Mary. During this devotion everyone approached the outdoor altar to place flowers in the vases provided. It was a beautiful tribute of devotion to Our Blessed Mother.

Then, on the feast of the Queenship at the end of May, we had a solemn High Mass. This was the first time we have had a solemn Mass this year. Mr. Tien Le, a seminarian from Omaha, has been spending some time with us, and he was able to take the part of the subdeacon. Father Anthony was the deacon for the Mass, while Father Benedict was the celebrant. After Mass we renewed our Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary.

Soon there will be senior graduation and the end of school. We congratulate Mark on his graduation from our seminary and wish him the best. We will miss him but pray that

Saint Joseph will inspire other young men to join us in the minor seminary. May you all have an enjoyable summer. God bless you.

A Change in the Schedule

by Mark Vincent, gr. 12

What could have been better than to finish out the penultimate week of the school year with a camping trip in Northern Idaho? Ascension Thursday created a fortunate gap in the seminary schedule for us to spend the rest of the week enjoying ourselves. Our trip brought us to Pend Oreille River, close to the Canadian border.



Victor joined us for a recent group photo of our seminarians and staff.

We found a quiet campground for the first night, which was conveniently close to a creek where

June Calendar

- 3 – Senior graduation and Bishop’s visit
- 7 – Final day of class; school program and awards ceremony
- 12 – Robert’s Birthday
- 18 – Corpus Christi procession

we obtained water. After dinner, we soon retired. The next morning, Father Anthony said Mass in the box trailer we brought with us. After breakfasting, we packed the truck and drove to Gardner Cave, where we obtained a tour of the hole which

dives a few hundred feet into the ground. Despite being the home of the local pack rats, it nevertheless contained stunning beauty and architecture. Finishing the tour, we followed a short trail leading us directly to the Canadian border, which is clearly noticed by an absence of trees stretching over the mountains for miles. For yet another fun experience that day, we drove a short

distance to Boundary Dam, which also lies on the border. There we canoed up to the falls a short distance away and ate lunch. That concluded the activities for our first full day.

On Saturday morning, we

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A Change in the Schedule

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immediately packed up again and drove a few hours up to Bonners Ferry, where the Drewson family resides. After canoeing up a river, erecting our tent in the trees beyond their house and attending Mass, we enjoyed their warm hospitality and a delicious, filling supper, during which Mr. Drewson told countless interesting and humorous stories of his past.

Sunday morning began with assistance at Holy Mass, after which we devoured a scrumptious breakfast of bacon and eggs. Reversing our original plan, we decided to stay there the rest of the day, hiking and enjoying the natural beauty of the surrounding countryside. After again stuffing ourselves with a delicious supper meal, we repacked the truck and trailer and drove the two hours back home.

The camping trip was a much-needed recreation, deviating from our normally unchanging schedule. We returned refreshed in body and mind, ready for the final week of school and enriched with new

experiences. It is certainly always a great idea to get out of the normal routine once in a while and relax in someplace different.

Model of Youth

by Kevin LeStage, gr. 9

St. Aloysius was born in Castiglione, Italy. The first words St. Aloysius spoke were the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. His father wanted him to follow his footsteps in the military, but Aloysius had decided on a religious life and made a vow of virginity.

Due to his short lifespan, the life of Saint Aloysius Gonzaga deals mainly with his childhood and seminary life. He was the eldest son of Ferrante, the Marquis of Castiglione, an Italian nobleman, and was born on March 9, 1568. From the earliest age, the young saint was given to prayer.

In 1577, his father took Aloysius and his brother to Florence to study and improve their Latin and Italian. At this time Aloysius read of the Jesuit missionaries in India, and he resolved to join the Society of Jesus. Over the next

two years, Aloysius would fight with his father, mother, royalty and delegates over his impending Jesuit vocation. His father and mother were disappointed that Aloysius had always been ill, but they were even more disappointed when he said that he wanted to become a Jesuit. His parents continued to disagree with his choice to follow a religious life on the grounds he should follow in his father's stead.

Aloysius' health was so poor that he received Holy Viaticum and Extreme Unction on several occasions. It was revealed to him that he would pass on the Octave of Corpus Christi, and though he appeared much better in the days preceding the Feast, Saint Aloysius Gonzaga did in fact die on the Octave of Corpus Christi, June 21, 1591.

Who could serve as a better example or be a good patron

saint for young people if not St Aloysius? We youth face the same kinds of challenges such as peer pressure, struggles with remaining pure, and difficulties in choosing and pursuing a vocation that Saint Aloysius did. Saint Aloysius Gonzaga is a wonderful example. Despite being among very rough and impure people, and despite



The Marian Sisters joined us for our Queenship procession.

many arguments from his parents, he maintained a pure heart, and became a Jesuit cleric.

Summer Vacation

by Dominic Lehnen, gr. 10

What is the purpose for a vacation? Well, simply to give your brain and body a break. Each and every one of us needs a break once in a while. After school each day, you may feel that you are really tired out from the day. That is why we need vacation. Even adults need vacation. They work for 8 to 10 hours a day, 5 days a week. So every once in a while they need a vacation. If we didn't have vacations, then we would always be tired and probably depressed. God has given us a day out of the week to honor Him. We could say that this day is a vacation of a sort because we get away from the temporal work and think about God. That is what vacation should really be—to think about God more rather than worrying about our work schedule.

But during vacation, you do not give up everything and

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The priests and seminarians kneel before the main altar as we begin the prayers for the Rogation procession.



Canoeing on Pend Oreille River in northeast Washington during the camping trip.



A seminarian crowns the statue of Our Lady in the seminary chapel during May.



The seminarians are a big help in all liturgical ceremonies, such as serving for the recent First Holy Communion ceremony.



The seminarians joined the students of our parish school for the annual jog-a-thon.

Summer Vacation

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just sit around and watch movies all day. We should always pray, especially during the summer. Why is this you might ask? This is because during the summer months, there is more immodesty out in the world than in any other time of the year. Again, pray to God for sinners especially the poor sinners who are almost to the point of losing their soul because of the sins that they commit over summer vacation. Summer vacation is the time where everyone thinks about themselves instead of God, their Creator, who gave them this vacation. But don't let yourself be that way because then you will end up in the wrong place when you die.

Also, during vacation it is good to keep up spiritual reading. Everyone needs a little food for thought because without it, we

would most likely not keep our faith. In the spiritual books, there are many stories of the heroic saints, of Our Lord and Our Lady. Without these stories, we would have no clue of who they actually are. During the summer vacation, we should keep up our spiritual reading, for about 15 minutes a day.

So during this summer vacation, relax, have fun, and get your mind off your work. But don't forget to think about God who gave you this rest time.

Touching the Hardest Heart

Every priest has seen the grace of God at work in souls. It is truly humbling yet wonderful to see the miracles of grace which God brings about through the ministry of His priests. While we marvel at the extraordinary gifts of grace, we recall that we are very unworthy instruments. Even though every priest could tell you stories of God's grace being distributed through his instrumentality, we are also aware of the many souls we were unable to reach, either because we were not holy enough, did not trust

enough in Our Lord, or were lacking in prayer and sacrifice.

This is all the more urgent, because the value of even one immortal soul is incalculable. We could say that a soul is worth the Blood of Jesus Christ, which was shed for the salvation of each of us. This is why there is nothing more pleasing to God than the salvation of souls, for whom Christ shed His precious Blood. Every priest is grieved to

see souls fail to cooperate with God's saving grace. What then is the solution? How can we become better instruments of the grace of God?

In addition to a greater striving for holiness, the remedy is a greater devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. One only needs to read the revelations of Our Lord to Saint Margaret Mary to understand His boundless love for souls, and how generous Our Lord is with His grace. Furthermore, He promised that priests

who practice this devotion will have the gift of touching the hardest hearts. That promise must inspire every priest to become totally devoted to the most Sacred Heart of Jesus—to practice this devotion himself and urge others to practice it.

Seminarians, who will one day become other Christ's, must imbibe early on a deep love for Our Lord's loving Heart—that Heart which has loved men so much, but has been so little loved in return. This devotion means that we love Jesus and strive to perform all our works for the love of Him. It also means that we make reparation for those who reject His loving mercy.

Let us all honor the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus this month. Perhaps you could add the Litany of the Sacred Heart to your daily prayer regimen. And please also pray for priests, that they will have the gift—as Our Lord promised—of touching the most hardened hearts. May we all love Our Lord, as well as the precious souls for whom He shed His Blood. We thank you for your support. Please continue to pray for our seminarians and for more vocations. Be assured of our prayers in return.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI



The Rogation procession wends its way through the grounds around the seminary on a beautiful spring day.