



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

October 2017

By now we have all settled into the routine of the seminary, with its daily round of activities.

Academically, we have already completed half of the First Quarter. In a few days we will receive our mid-quarter grade reports, informing us of our performance in our studies.

From the standpoint of recreation, we have primarily been playing football. We play on the large parking lot here by the church, and every Wednesday we go to the park in Rathdrum, which has an excellent field of soft grass. Then, on Sunday afternoons we go to the park again to play football with any of the young men of the parish who would like to join us. The weather is definitely turning cooler, but for now, we are making the most of the nice weather.

We have also been busy harvesting

the fruit. We have harvested the remaining plums and pears, as well as the grapes from our vineyard. Now, the only thing left is the apple harvest. That will require several days in October to complete.

In addition to our other studies we have choir twice a week. Our choir teacher is Vincent Prado, a former student from our seminary. We have already chanted Vespers for feasts of Our Lady and are preparing for our first High Mass this week. We also continue to learn new hymns and to improve our singing.

So, as you can see, we are plenty busy. We enjoy writing these articles for you, and we hope you enjoy reading them. Please keep up your prayers for our seminary. May God bless you.

October Calendar

- 3 – High Mass in honor of the Little Flower
- 7 – Feast of the Most Holy Rosary; procession
- 11 – Feast of the Divine Maternity BVM; chanted Vespers
- 12 – Attend Fatima Conference lectures.
- 13 – Serve for the Bishop’s Pontifical High Mass and attend the Rosary procession
- 27-28 – First Quarter exams
- 29 – Feast of Christ the King; renewal of seminary enthronement
- 31 – End of First Quarter

The Grape Day

by Dominic Scherling, gr. 10

The day started with our normal schedule, but this time it was different. We were all, meaning the seminarians, gathered together in the midst of the vineyard with our buckets, ready to be filled. As we jumped into the massive project of harvesting this year’s grapes, we realized very quickly just how many grapes we had to pick.

The Grape Day actually began in the spring of 2015. There were two different types of seedlings planted by Mr. Keaveney: 27 Concord grape seedlings and 33 red Leon Millot seedlings. There are ten rows with six vines in each row. Last year’s harvest

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A small statue of Our Lady of Fatima was carried in the Rosary procession.

A Grape Day

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was quite small and only made 12 bottles of wine. This year yielded a much better harvest.

On Saturday, the 23rd, we picked six rows of grapes, which produced about four 32-gallon garbage cans full. We estimate the weight to be between 400 and 500 pounds. We still have four rows to pick and estimate another 400 pounds because the rest of the grapes are red Leon Millot grapes which are much larger than Concord grapes. After we picked those six rows, we had to take all the grapes off the stems and start to clean them.

It takes several months, at least, for the wine to be ready. After the wine is ready, Father is planning to use it for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

I would like to conclude my article by sharing with you a beautiful quote from Scripture: "I am the true vine; and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me, that beareth not fruit, He will take away: and every one that beareth fruit, He will purge it, that it may bring forth more fruit" (St. John 15:1-2).



Dominic helps to harvest the grapes in our vineyard.

The History of the Church in Vietnam

by Thiet Nguyen, gr. 8

In the last *Guardian* article I told you the story of my childhood, my education, and my journey to South Carolina and Georgia. As you know, I've spent 9 years of my life in Vietnam, my dearest homeland. Because of that, as a Vietnamese Catholic, I've learned a lot of things about my culture, traditions, my path as a Vietnamese Catholic, and especially our country's history of the Church. Today, I'm going to tell you the history of the Catholic Church in Vietnam.

During 300 years, the Catholic Church in Vietnam has suffered much opposition, resistance, and struggles at different times of our history. Since the missionaries stepped upon the soil of our land in the mid-1700s, they

have received many joyful greetings from the people of northern and midwest Vietnam. However, they also had to face the hatred passed down from generation to generation of the royal power of the kings of Dai Viet and Dai Nam, former traditional kingdoms of Vietnam.

From the early 1700s to the 1940s, many cruel events happened in Vietnam that caused a lot of casualties. The second civil war between Trinh-Nguyen dynasties which happened between the 1530s and 1770s caused thousands of deaths. The Cambodian Rebellions started in the 1800s. There was also the Dai Nam-Siam wars between the two strongest powers of the Tonkin Gulf from the 1700s to 1800s. The last wars that happened in Vietnam and other countries in the Tonkin area are the French Indochina wars.

These are the last wars that the Vietnamese fought against the foreign countries from the 1800s to the 1940s. During that period of time many European missionaries had sailed to the coast of Tonkin to teach the faith of Christ to the Southwest Asian countries, such as Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Siam (also known as Thailand), Laos, Burma, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

The kings of those countries and ours didn't want the teachings of the Church to be taught to the people. They thought that once the teaching of our Church spread, it would affect the thinking of the people, and there would be rebellions. They thought that the people would start to follow France's power. The king of Vietnam started to make rules that banned the teachings of the missionaries of the Church. Everyone who went to Mass and catechism classes would be arrested and killed. Even though the king of Dai Nam gave out such strict and terrifying rules, the parishioners had no fear to prove their strong faith in God. They still attended Masses on Sundays and catechism classes. Because of that, thousands of parishioners, bishops, priests, and brothers were martyred.

In the early 1900s the French finally conquered all the states of the Tonkin Gulf, which includes Vietnam. From that period of time, the French had helped most of the developments and improvements of the economy in their colonized states of the Tonkin Gulf. Many Catholic schools were constructed. Thousands of hospitals, factories, churches, convents and seminaries were built across the country of Vietnam and in the neighboring countries of the Tonkin Gulf. Millions of Vietnamese people were learning the faith of the Church and were baptized.

In the 1930s to 1960s, the growth of Communism spread throughout Asia. One of the countries that was most affected was Vietnam. Nguyen Sinh Cung, known as Ho Chi Minh, a former student and a traitor of Phan Boi Chau, started the revolution against the French colonization.

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The high school boys join the seminarians each week for recreation at the park.



The pool table was popular during our outing to Lake Coeur d'Alene last month.



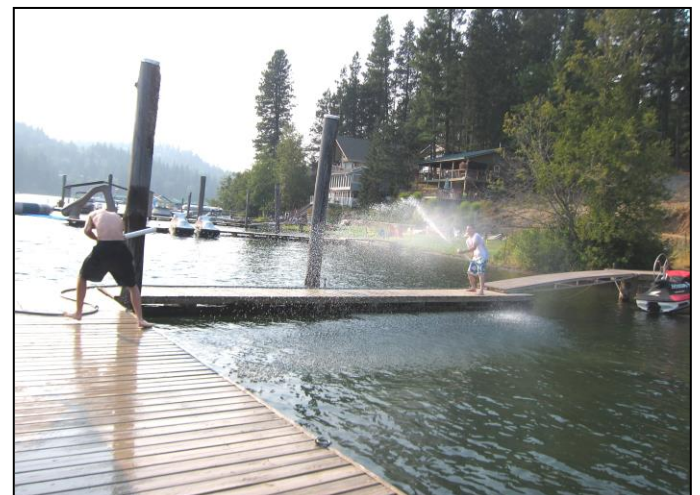
The seminarians joined parishioners for the public Rosary procession on September 13.



We also harvested the last 2 plum trees.



Thiet joins the other seminarians in the vineyard.



Everyone enjoyed the squirt gun battles at the lake!.

The History of the Church in Vietnam

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During the revolution, thousands of Catholics were killed. Many of the Church's structures were burned down. Church lands were stolen. Hundreds of convents and seminaries were destroyed. Many parishioners, priests, brothers and seminarians were killed by the Communist soldiers. With the help of China and the Soviet Union, Ho Chi Minh and his army fought the French for more than 60 years. The war finally stopped in the early 1960s. The French and the Communists signed the Geneva Agreement. This Agreement included the terms of demilitarization between the two countries. The French gave their power back to Bao Dai, the last king of Vietnam, and to the people of South Vietnam. Meanwhile, the Communists took control of the north of Vietnam.

The South Vietnamese Republic, with the powerful assistance of the United States, had succeeded in their plans of development. Ngo Dinh Diem, a layman who was a former seminarian, became the president of the Republic of South Vietnam. Ngo Dinh Diem was born in a Catholic family. His brother was Bishop Ngo Dinh Thuc. Diem was a very faithful Catholic. He had constructed many churches, French Catholic schools and seminaries. During the time when he was the president of South Vietnam, about 54% of the South Vietnamese were Roman Catholics. (To be continued)

The Sport of the Fall

by Robert Kolinsky, gr. 12

As we are still in the beginning of the school year and the warm air is here, there is nothing better in the realm of recreation than a good football scrimmage. It is a very involved sport in which athleticism is necessary for good performance. Now anyone can partake in it for there are different positions, such as quarterback, receiver, line, etc. Each position may vary in the skill requirement depending on the particular role the player has.

Well, here at the seminary this is the recreation used for P.E. during this season. We start out our routine by running a lap around the property which is about a mile. Then we have about forty minutes of play time, with the new teacher Frater Augustine as the supervisor. Lately, we have been going to the park on Wednesdays and also on Sundays. On Sunday all men and boys of the parish are invited to come. And as for the school we seminarians and the high school boys usually play against different teams, as we have done for a number of years, specifically with our neighboring school Mount Saint Michael.

Recreation is a good thing for the mind as it relaxes you after a hard working school day. I find football and other

sports more of a mental than a physical challenge, as is most likely the case with others. Sports also are good since they teach you how to play with good sportsmanship and teamwork. And so, since we have some good, healthy young players we must know that youth won't be forever. So we should be thankful to God for this time and use it to our good in the process of sanctifying ourselves.

“Pray the Rosary Every Day.”

As you know, October is the month of the Holy Rosary. On the 7th we celebrate the important feast of the Most Holy Rosary, and throughout the month we pray the Rosary publicly in our chapel before the Blessed Sacrament exposed, as Pope Leo XIII commanded to be done in all parishes. We also recall, this year especially, the urgent request of Our Lady at Fatima—repeated at each of her apparitions—that we pray at least 5 decades of the Rosary every day.

The Rosary is a source of abundant blessings, especially to obtain the grace of perseverance in the Faith. It has never ceased to amaze me when I meet new people who have attained a complete understanding of the situation in the Church in our time. When I ask them if they pray the Rosary, invariably they will say that, yes, they did begin to pray the Rosary. Then, over time, they received from God through Our Lady the grace to understand the truth.

This reminds me of the words of Sister Lucia, to whom Our Lady appeared at Fatima. In a 1957 interview with Father Fuentes, she said the following: “The Most Holy Virgin in these last times in which we live has given a new efficacy to the recitation of the Rosary, to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is... that cannot be solved by the Rosary. There is no problem I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary... With the Rosary, we will save ourselves, we will sanctify ourselves, we will console Our Lord and obtain the salvation of many souls.”

Let us then, during this month particularly, but also every day of our lives, comply with this request of our loving Mother to pray the Rosary every day. By doing so, we shall obtain the graces to persevere and to sanctify ourselves. And we shall also thereby obtain many graces for the conversion of sinners and the salvation of souls.

I hope to see many of you at Mount Saint Michael for the coming Fatima Conference. But I also know that you will all be there in spirit as we honor Our Blessed Mother and seek to more perfectly fulfill her requests. Again, we thank you for your support of our seminary and promise a remembrance of you in our prayers.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI