



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

February 2018

The last couple weeks at the seminary have been particularly busy. Bishop Pivarunas and about 20 priests came to our seminary for an evening of dinner and recreation on January 24th. Two days later we had our first ski day of this winter. After that we had a couple of basketball games. Now we are preparing for the High Mass and ceremonies of Candlemas Day (February 2nd). So as you can see, we are kept busy here.

Soon we will enter the unique season of Lent. Later this month we will have our Lenten retreat. This is a very important season of the Church Year, so let us all resolve to make a good Lent by giving up something we enjoy and by some extra spiritual practices. Lent is a time of many graces for those who spend the season as they should, in penance and sorrow for sin. May we all devote ourselves to meditation on the Passion of Christ and to striving for spiritual growth at this time of the year.

A Priestly Meeting

by Robert Kolinsky, gr. 12

Every year at the seminary during January, the CMRI have an annual Priest Meeting up here in the Northwest. It is when many a priest and the Bishop discuss their parishes and establishing new Mass centers, and other areas to which they dedicate their lives. And what is that? Well to save souls and look after the flock that has been given to them.

Now what does this have to do with the seminary? Well after the meetings that they have at Mount Saint Michael they all come here for their dinner and for the evening. So we seminarians spend time in this little but suitable building in preparing for when they come. We do things like setting up extra tables and just getting things set up so that everything is in order. Others help too—or I should say, we help them. The cooks prepare meals

February Calendar	
2	– Purification BVM feastday; Candlemas ceremonies
5-13	– Annual ping-pong tournament
14	– Ash Wednesday
22	– Mid-quarter
23-25	– Annual seminary Lenten retreat

and dessert for about 25 people. This year Mr. and Mrs. Drewsen provided the delicious dinner meal.

And of course, since there are so many priests, we all get to associate with them. And it is nice that we get to see the connection that they have with each other. It was especially great for me to see Father Anthony again, with whom I spent my first two years here, when he was the assistant priest. His visit brought back many memories.

It also was an excellent opportunity to visit with and recreate with other priests, and also to learn how they became a priest, the younger and the older. And what I learned is that if you have a vocation, whatever it is, God will call you, and you will be able to know if He is calling you. So let's all remember to keep all of these priests in our prayers. They certainly are warriors for the main purpose of this life, the mission of saving souls. And then maybe add a little prayer for us too.



His Excellency engaged a group with his stories.

Snow for All; All for Snow

by Dominic Scherling, gr. 10

Earlier on in the year, I wrote an article about a breakfast fundraiser that we seminarians served. As I said in the article, the fundraiser was to help pay for us to go skiing this school year. Finally, the day arrived! On Friday, January 26th, there were 10 of us altogether who set out for Silver Mountain Ski Resort.

As we arrived at the base of the mountain, we all loaded into the gondola to take us up the marvelous mountain. While we sat in the gondola, we looked all around at the ground and the trees, and very quickly realized that Thiet was not feeling very well. Luckily, we reached the resort before.... well let's just say we were lucky. The total trip to the resort on the gondola took about fifteen minutes. Although it was cloudy outside, we were able to see a little glimpse of the amazing view from the mountain as our ride concluded.

Finally, we suited up with our skis and headed towards the slopes. We were all assigned a buddy to ski with for the day. As we started off skiing, Brother Thomas and I skied down the bunny hill a couple times to warm up. I personally love riding up the ski lifts after zipping down a slope. After that, we moved on to the green slopes, which are not too steep. After several times of skiing on green slopes, we took a break for lunch. Since it was Friday we ate tuna sandwiches, with some beverages, chips and crackers.



Seminarians prepare for another run down the hill.

After we wrapped up lunch we returned to the slopes. For the second half of the day we ventured onto the blue slopes (intermediate level). As our ski day came to an end, we all returned our skies and boarded the gondola. I would like to thank all of the people, who helped out in the fundraiser so that we could have the time of our lives skiing at Silver Mountain.

Forty Days

by Nicholas Middleton-Ensign, gr. 9

For the most part, we all know Ash Wednesday is the start of our annual forty day fast, commonly known as Lent. During this time we are reminded of Our Lord's Passion, as well as his forty day fast, by offering up sacrifices in anticipation of the ultimate sacrifice made on Mount Calvary, 1,985 years ago, and the same sacrifice that is renewed every day within Holy Mass. During this time the liturgies experience some restrictions, such as the omission of the Gloria and the organ, and the wearing of the dalmatic and tunic by the deacon and subdeacon.

Having observed Septuagesima, we are now deep into pre-Lent, and in less than two weeks will start giving up various objects and hobbies of enjoyment, and that is the key point of this article—sacrifices during Lent.

Although sacrifices are emphasized heavily during the two penitential seasons of Advent and Lent, I wanted to dive into a more specific type of sacrifice especially pleasing to God. One year I gave up chocolate for Lent; another year I added salt and sugar. While those sacrifices were made for God, they did not fulfill the purposes of Lent. No, these sacrifices were merely a way around what I should have given up. For example, television. While I'm at home, my family and I watch movies and shows every day.

The sacrifice that is most pleasing to God (besides that of martyrdom), is a sacrifice of your time. Instead of spending my evenings watching television, I could go to my room and pray, doing meditations, spiritual reading, or simply talking to God and Our Lady. While at the seminary, I have an easily accessible chapel where I can physically spend my time with God, which is something I cherish.

However, that doesn't mean we shouldn't give up chocolate, salt, or sugar, as part of our sacrifices. But it does mean that we shouldn't limit ourselves to simple sacrifices when we are able to sacrifice something more valuable. In the end, chocolate, salt, and sugar are worth very little to me, compared to my time.

A Joyful Christmas Vacation

by Thiet Nguyen, gr. 8

If you ask: "What's your favorite holiday of the year?" Most people would answer *Christmas*. Especially with us Catholics, for it is the time of joyfully celebrating the birth of Our Lord. My Christmas vacation went very well. I had a great time with my family, with a lot of laughs and

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Hockey in the gym is a popular winter sport here.



Our wonderful cooks prepared a splendid meal for the priests and seminarians.



Fr. Casimir entertained us with his piano skills during the priests' visit.



The seminarians joined the priests for Vespers during their visit to the seminary.



Our skiers get ready to board the gondola for Silver Mountain.



Thiet challenged Fr. Geckle to a pool game.

A Joyful Christmas Vacation

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much joy, with just one exception—my oldest sister Chau was not able to be with our family for Christmas this year. For she is a foreign exchange student in Yakima, Washington, and is not allowed to travel right now.

My vacation started off with a visit to my sister Chau, whom I had not seen for a very long time. Chau's exchange family picked me up at the seminary, and I arrived at their house after a 5-hour drive. The family was very nice to me. By the time I arrived, they had already prepared dinner for me. The next morning, the family took me to Seattle, which was exciting to visit such a big city. After two days filled with excitement, I had to say good-bye to the family and my beloved sister.

I checked in to a hotel, and after several hours waiting for my dad, he finally made it to the hotel. It was exciting to see him again after four months. We woke up very early the next morning and went to SEATAC Airport to continue our way to Atlanta. We arrived at Atlanta at 9:00 pm. After several months in the seminary, I finally got to see my mother and my siblings.



Robert goes up for a shot in a game against Kootenai.

Our family had a very relaxing time together. We went to a Christmas Solemn High Mass, watched family movies and opened our presents. We were singing Christmas songs during night prayer time. The very special thing about our Christmas celebration is that we have only Asian dishes; it was great for me to have Asian food again after such a long

time.

After two weeks of fun, I had to bid my family farewell. I packed my stuff with my dad to fly back to Spokane and return to the seminary. My dad and I arrived at Spokane's airport at the afternoon. Father Augustine came to pick us up at the airport. My dad stayed in the seminary for one night and then went to Mass at Mount St. Michael's, where he visited the school and then left for the flight back to Atlanta, Georgia.

I've had a fun time with my family for Christmas, and I want to thank God for all the blessings he poured down on my family during Christmas. It is the time of joy and happiness, but it's also the time for us to think of Our Lord, who was born for us. Let us give thanks to Almighty God, for He has given His only Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins.

Remember Man, That Thou Art Dust....

The ceremony of blessing and imposition of ashes on the first day of Lent is most impressive. It reminds us of death and also of the need to do penance. In the Old Testament times, when someone wished to do penance for sin, it was the custom to sprinkle ashes over oneself. It was a sign of sorrow and repentance, and a reminder of the need to make atonement for sin.

Call to mind these thoughts as you receive the blessed ashes on your forehead this year. By receiving them publicly, we acknowledge before the other members of the congregation that we are sinners and that we need to do penance. This humble disposition is essential if we wish to make a good Lent.

Let us also call to mind the words of the Epistle for Ash Wednesday from Joel the Prophet: "Rend your hearts and not your garments." True contrition is not found in external signs, but in a sorrowful heart. May we all enter this Lenten season with

sentiments of deep sorrow for our sins and a determination to expiate them by penance.

All of you, our seminary benefactors, will be remembered in our prayers during this holy season. We are most grateful for your support. May God abundantly reward you.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI