



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

October 2018

So far, so good, as the old saying goes. We have all had a good beginning to the new school year. We seminarians get along well together, and we work and study well together. Our days are busy with school, prayers, fun and homework. We especially enjoy the trips to the park for football and soccer.

We have also been kept busy with harvesting the fruit. Over the past month we have picked plums and pears, and just last week we harvested

grapes over to the men, who worked on cleaning and crushing the grapes. Next month it will be the apple harvest.

We are also looking forward to the Fatima Conference. We will participate in many of the events, especially the lectures, the bishop's solemn Pontifical Mass and the outdoor candlelight procession of Our Lady of Fatima. It will also be nice to meet the different priests who come for the Fatima Conference.

October Calendar

- 7 – Feast of the Most Holy Rosary BVM
- 11 – Feast of the Divine Maternity BVM; chanted Vespers
- 11-13 – Fatima Conference
- 28 – Feast of Christ the King; renewal of seminary enthronement
- 30 – Final day of the First Quarter
- 31 – Beginning of the Second Quarter



Harvesting the grapes in the vineyard last week.

the grapes. First, Father blessed the vineyard, and then, with the help of the younger children from the grade school, we all joined together in picking the grapes. With all the help, it only took an hour to harvest the 10 rows of vines. We then turned the

So as you can see, we have been busy. We are studying hard and trying to do our best in the seminary. We appreciate your prayers and hope you enjoy reading our articles.

Hail Mary, Full of Grace

by Gabriel Davis, gr. 9

On September 13 we celebrated the anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima's fifth apparition. On this glorious feast, we prayed fifteen decades in procession to honor Our Lady of Fatima. It was spiritually uplifting to see more than a hundred people and religious pray Our Lady's salutation. As we processed through Riverfront Park and environs, it was sobering to see the state the world is in today with its many distractions and temptations. It was hard to concentrate when the world was so willing to distract.

As we processed through the streets of Spokane, I couldn't help but feel like a light in a dark world, a world that doesn't keep God's Ten

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Hail Mary, Full of Grace

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Commandments. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Neither do men light a lamp and put it under the measure but upon the lamp stand, so as to give light to all the house. Even so let your light shine before men, in order that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven” (Matthew 14:16).

Our Lady of Fatima gave us an important message: “Say the Rosary every day, to obtain peace for the world.” After the holy sacrifice of the Mass, there is no more powerful prayer than the holy Rosary. Having both mental and vocal prayer, it is spiritual ammo against the devil. As we pray the Rosary we recall the Nativity, Passion, and glorious Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. And by saying it in a group, or as a family, we receive ten times the amount of grace.

Mary is our most loving mother. And how it must grieve her that millions of people lose their souls in such a godless world that never prays the Rosary. Whenever we pray the Rosary, Our Lady must smile on us, as we spend 15 minutes in thanksgiving for God's many blessings.

Our Daily Prayer Routine

by William Davis, gr. 8

The daily prayer routine at St. Joseph seminary is as follows. At 6:20 in the morning we wake up to the sound of the hall bell. We respect all bells as *Vox Dei*, the voice of God. So even if I do not want to get out of bed, it is necessary to respect the bell, so out of bed it is.

I pray morning offering as soon as I get up, and then I make my bed and get changed and ready for Mass. We go downstairs to our pew in the front of chapel and pray morning prayers, Matins and Prime. Morning prayers consists of the morning offering and other prayers that change daily. Matins and Prime are an abbreviated version of the priests' prayers that are under the same name.

Morning prayers, Matins and Prime are all led by the lector of the week. The first week it was Thiet; the next week was Gabriel Davis (my brother); the next week it was Gabriel Riley; and this week it is my turn. Matins and Prime consist of a hymn and prayers to Our Lady.

At noon we pray Tierce, Sext, None and noon prayers, which is like morning prayers. At five o'clock we head into chapel for Rosary. The first, third and fifth decades are prayed in English, but the second and fourth decades are prayed in Latin. After the Rosary we pray the Litany of Our Lady and a few other prayers. After that, we pray Vespers, and then we go to the dining room, where we pray

the *Angelus Domini*, that is the Angelus in Latin.

At 8:45 in the evening we go back to chapel for 15 minutes of spiritual reading, and then we pray night prayers, Compline and the final commendation. We end with the singing of the *Salve Regina*. On Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday we chant it solemnly while processing around the chapel with lighted candles, and then we kneel down around the communion rail and chant a few lines to Our Lady in a solemn manner. After that there is grand silence until after Mass the next morning. Those are the prayers we pray daily.



With everyone's help, the monthly mailing is put together fairly quickly.

The Value of Education

by Gabriel Riley, gr. 9

Imagine what this world would be like without school—the subjects math, speech, Latin, science, English, history, penmanship and others. These are the most significant subjects to processing the information that you will eventually need in your life! Once you have achieved this information, I assure you that when the time comes and you have to answer a question or pay bills or something like that, you'll know what to do because you have learned your skills.

That is a reason why school is important. I am going to give you an example of math. When I learned math someone special told me that math problems can help you with your big and small problems in life. Sometimes, if you can't figure out how to solve a math problem you would ask for help. The same with life—if you are struggling with a life problem ask someone with knowledge such as a priest, your parents or a good friend who has dealt with these problems before.

I am not good at paying close attention, when I should

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The seminarians went to Manito Park in Spokane for a recent field trip for science class.



Even the younger children were involved with the grape harvest.



The staff members joined us for a special dinner to celebrate a feast of Our Lady.



The seminarians joined parishioners in the Rosary procession on September 13.



The school boys join the seminarians every Friday for recreation at the park.



Father Augustine helped to clean and crush the grapes that were harvested.

The Value of Education

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be paying close attention and gaining loads of information from the speaker. That is why you should always pay close attention, whether you want to or not. That is why speech class is important to me, and it should be to everyone.

In the speech book it tells me ways to be a better listener and writer. That's where I gain most of my listening information. Where do I get most of my information? From school! Everyone should learn to love schoolwork because of the information and knowledge you will learn and gain. That is why school is important to me. It should also be very important to you and your children. So let us strive to learn and gain much knowledge from the subjects of school. I hope you readers who have read this article have learned the importance of school. "DEUS VULT".

The Privilege of One's Youth

by Thiet Vincent Nguyen, gr. 9

On a beautiful Friday afternoon, we seminarians and the high school boys loaded into the vans, in company with Father Augustine, Mr. Keaveney, and the grade school boys, and soon arrived at the park in Rathdrum for some soccer motivation before another winter begins.

The game started adequately with many goals being scored by the players on both teams in the first twenty minutes. Father was a substitute for the start of the game for whoever was tired and wanted to sit out. As the game came to an exciting point, both teams tried to make good strategies by making efforts to make accurate passes.

Father Augustine was considerably the spirit of our team. Not only did he coach us directly on the field, but he also made excellent passes, creating the chances for offensive players to score their goals. The players have improved a lot since the first week we started playing soccer.

One of the most improved players was Christopher, who was probably the youngest player on the field, which somewhat made us ashamed of ourselves because of his endless energy and sport-thinking ability. The other important players for the other team were Gabriel and Joseph, for they are the two oldest players on their team.

The game was filled with a lot of excitement. Players were making a lot of effort to keep their teams in balance by retaining a triangle in each half of the field, a strategy which most soccer clubs are applying to their playing style today.

As we're making good progress toward our

sportsmanship, I want to thank God for granting us such a pleasure of the time to spend in sports during our youth. Life is short, which reminds us to use our time wisely and piously for God, for He can call us at any time in our life, either expectedly or unexpectedly. And we shall always be ready by practicing His Words every day by our thoughts, words and actions.

The Mother Tongue

It is interesting to witness the first steps in Latin of young freshmen. Since Latin is the language of Holy Mother Church, it is imperative that seminarians learn it well. Consequently, they spend time in class studying Latin daily during all four years in the minor seminary. In addition, there is at least a half hour of homework in Latin every night.

It is particularly important for them to master the basic grammar lessons during their first year of studying the language. American students struggle with declensions, cases, and gender rules—and that is just for nouns. Having taught Latin for many years, I have found it necessary every year to review the rudiments of English grammar, such as identification of the parts of speech and the role that nouns play in a sentence. Modern education does not lay a great deal of stress upon grammar, so we must often spend time learning (or reviewing) English grammar in order to learn Latin.

Students in Catholic schools have struggled with Latin for centuries. In fact, in one of our books (which are older books, used in Catholic seminaries and high schools before Vatican II) there is a clever little ditty written out by a bored Latin student of yore: "Latin is a dead language. It killed the Romans, and now it is killing me!" Well, it isn't quite that miserable for those students who put their mind to it. In fact, it can be quite exciting when they finally have enough tools of the language to translate the beautiful hymns and liturgy of the Church.

Latin is not only the language of the Church, but it is a beautiful sign of the universality of the Church. For wherever we travel, the Latin Mass is always the same. So let us appreciate *Lingua Nostra*, our mother tongue.

Once again, we thank you for your support as we continue in our mission, to prepare the future priests who will offer Mass, dispense the sacraments, and bring the Faith to souls thirsting for the truth. Be assured of our prayers for all our benefactors.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI