



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

June 2019

The past month has been full of activities for us seminarians, but the highlight was certainly our recent camping trip. We discovered that northern Idaho has many beautiful lakes, mountains, forests, etc. We spent a lot of time hiking, but unfortunately the fish weren't biting as we had hoped. We also discovered that it is still very cold at night.

Now this week we will have the church dedication by His Excellency, Bishop Pivarunas. We are looking forward to the opportunity of serving a Pontifical High Mass, which will be our second time, since we were able to serve this special ceremony at the Fatima Conference in October. The church has been finished, and the final result is beautiful—a fitting house for Our Lord.

Soon we will be leaving the seminary for the long summer home. Of course, we are all looking forward to be with our families, but we also plan on returning at the end of the summer for another exciting year in the seminary.

Ad Honorem Beatae Mariae Semper Virginis

by Thiet Vincent Nguyen, gr. 9

As we arrived in downtown Spokane, each of us seminarians were privileged to hold the banner for the rosary procession of Our Blessed Mother on a beautiful evening of the 13th of May. The sun started to make

its way to the West, brightly shining on the statue of the Blessed Virgin as if it were signaling the existence of her magnificence among the faithful.

When the procession headed towards the bridge connecting two sides of the rapidly flowing river, everything seemed to make way for Our Beloved Queen. From the people moving to the sides of the street, some out of respect, some out of curiosity, to the birds chirping on the beautiful scenery of a sunset, all gave honor to Mary.

In the lead of the procession were two laymen whom I supposed know



The seminarians joined the public Rosary procession in Spokane on May 13.

their way around the city very well, then the Marian Sisters and four men who carried the statue of Our Lady, followed by the rest of the laymen and the priests. It lasted about forty-five minutes to an hour, as we meditated on the fifteen decades of the rosary, everyone with modesty and devotion with rosary beads rattling in their hands and their lips devoutly praying the Psalter of Our Blessed Mother.

June Calendar

- 1 – Bishop's visit; confirmation; Thiet's 15th birthday
- 3 – School outing to Farragut State Park
- 5 – Last day of school; school program and awards ceremony
- 18-20 – Priests' retreat in Omaha
- 25-27 – CMRI Priests' General Chapter at Mount Saint Michael
- 27 – Sisters' Vows Ceremony at Mount Saint Michael

There were intentions for each decade led by a pious layman. From the reparation for moral impurities, to the triumphant reign of Christ the King in our American society, to numerous conversions to Catholicism, to more vocations, and for the stop of wicked infant abortions, etc. and especially in honor of the Blessed Virgin in this month of May on the final decade of the rosary.

This was indeed one of the most beautiful rosary processions that I've ever attended. By attending this procession, I firmly believe that Our Lady will intercede for me and the faithful who attended the rosary.

The first decade, as I remember, was for the sanctification of our daily duties. It brings up to me the question: "Have I been devoutly accomplishing

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Ad Honorem Beatae Mariae Semper Virginis

my daily duties as Our Lord wants me to?" This should be the question for all of us. Everyone who has a burning love for Our Blessed Savior and His Mother should always be zealously fulfilling their daily duties and persevering in their faith. So, let us pray that we shall always be doing God's holy will and his commandments every day, and to always pray to Our Blessed Lady that she will intercede for us to Our Lord to bring us to the happiness of Heaven.

A Life-Changing Event

by Gabriel Riley, gr. 9

Saint Joseph's Seminary is the biggest event in my life that has actually changed my life, thanks to Father Benedict, my kind fellow seminarians and the staff members of Saint Joseph's Seminary. Without it I would probably be a whole different person, maybe not for the better but for the worse. My mother always wanted me to hang around such God-loving, amiable friends and priests. She wanted me to understand my religion better than I did. Well, I think I have found what she wished for me.

One thing I learned is that time flies by very quickly. I remember the first few moments of my life in the seminary, meeting everyone and saying "Hi," and soon it is coming to be the last moments in this year in which I will be saying "Bye." My relatives always told me time flies by and before I know it, I will be home. Now I am not so sure if I want to go home right now. But I must give the priests and the staff a break from "baby-sitting" me. It is my mother's turn to "baby-sit" me now, again. I look forward to returning next year, if that is what God wills for me.

This big event changed my life in only good and holy ways, such as: I learned to manage my homework pretty well without my mother. I learned how to serve better and to learn my prayers and my responses and to understand them well. I am going to find my vocation hopefully sooner than later. I am still deciding and praying. I also ask you for your prayers.

It is kind of odd to be telling most of my secrets but they are true. Learning to respect my elders is one of the reasons I was also sent to the seminary. I was not good at it, and hopefully I have improved by now. There are so many other events that have happened during my life in the Seminary, but I cannot say them all. I am blessed to be chosen as a seminarian. God bless and protect this seminary! God bless you.

By the Shore of Priest Lake

by Gabriel Davis, gr. 9

It was Wednesday, May 23rd. There we sat in the hot car talking about the approaching end of school, and reminiscing on past camping and fishing excursions trying to pass the time awaiting our departure to Priest Lake where we would hopefully camp for three days. For the whole seminary experience, this was indeed the cherry on top. We seminarians were so excited to set out that morning, we could hardly contain our enthusiasm during our four morning classes. For three days we had been preparing for this most monumental trip. We were ready.

No sooner had we left the minor seminary than we were setting up camp and our one massive tent, used for daily Mass as well as for sleeping. Thanks be to God that Father Augustine and Brother Louis were there; otherwise, we would have been setting up that tent in the dark. Thursday morning came with the freshness of spring overpowering the senses, with the reflection of God's beauty in nature. The sun slid over the mountains pouring light down into the forest. If this scene was not already beautiful enough, the magnificence of having Mass in the silence of the words, with nature as the choir, was enough to make your soul dance with joy. After Mass was finished and breakfast eaten, everybody with fishing pole in hand ran to the lake in high expectations. After three hours of fishing without a bite, bored, we decided to try our luck hiking in the mountains. In the mountains where nothing worries and the only sound to be heard is the thundering roar of the rapids below, you can truly hear yourself think.

The following two days were as action-packed as the first. On Friday at 4:30 in the morning another hardy seminarian and I walked down to the lake, glistening like glass. The stillness and silence were only disturbed by the occasional splash of a bobber in the still water. Too soon had three days passed when we began packing on Saturday morning to return to the seminary. Though we all were sad to leave, the experience of sleeping on the bare cold ground and not taking a shower in three days, wears off pretty quickly. We were all very happy to get back in time to eat a hardy hot dinner prepared by Mrs. Gallagher.

To conclude, I want to thank Father Benedict for letting us go, Bro. Thomas and Joseph Vincent for all the useful fishing tips, and Bro. Louis for cooking. Especially I want to thank Father Augustine for making it a great trip and for putting up with our stupid questions. I know for certain we all had a great time hiking and fishing, even though we never ended up catching any fish, and I am looking forward to camping next year—God-willing with more seminarians.



Mrs. Gallagher joined the seminarians on a recent excursion.



During the month of May we daily prayed before our classroom May shrine.



Sunday Mass in our newly-remodeled church.



A group photo at our recent camping trip to Priest Lake.



Games of Aggravation can be intense, but everyone enjoys the game.



What is Gabriel cooking up in the kitchen?

God's Peruvian Wonder-Worker

by William Davis, gr. 8

Blessed Martin De Porres was born on December 9, 1579, in Lima Peru. The 16th century was a flower of sanctity for Peru. Saint Rose of Lima, Blessed Juan Massias, Blessed Martin and many others, were all extremely holy and now reside in heaven.

Blessed Martin was the son of a Peruvian mother and a Spanish father. After his birth it was soon discovered that Martin's physical traits took after that of his mother. His father was furious, wanting a son who was like him, but it was not to be. He was also scared of the social repercussions this might bring. So Martin's father disowned his family, maintaining only minimal contact with his children.

As Martin grew up so did a devotion to Our Lady, and he would have this devotion for all his life. He often visited the Dominican church of the Most Holy Rosary, which is where he would spend his free time in prayer and contemplation. He also developed an interest in the Dominican order, which had come almost as soon as the Spanish had conquered the Incas. It was not to long before he wanted to join the order as a lay Brother. But his mother was strongly against this because she wanted him to become a priest. But Martin begged and pleaded until his mother finally relented. Blessed Martin would spend the rest of his life as a simple lay Brother, and his entire life would be one of the most severe austerities and penances.

Blessed Martin was indeed a wonder-worker. Many people have claimed to have been cured by him. He cured scores of people miraculously. (Some of these cures would later be used to secure his beatification.) Martin could also bi-locate, and was seen in places as far away as Japan. After many years of holy and charitable works, he was struck down with a raging fever, which did not want to leave.

Martin knew that his days were drawing to a close. Under orders he finally relented and slept in his bed, which

he had not used out of penance. Brother Martin died a holy death, surrounded by his faithful brethren, on November 3rd, 1639. Even after his death he was surrounded by miracles. He was beatified on September 10th, 1837, by Pope Gregory XVI

Working together for God's Honor and Glory

This past school year has brought me a unique experience. As you know, we have remodeled our church, which was originally built 50 years ago. The planning and preparations for this remodel began several years ago, but we finally began work last June, at the end of the school year. Now, as we approach the end of this year, the project has been largely finished, with a few details yet to be completed.

It has been an interesting experience. Although we had carefully drawn up plans and had the blueprints approved

by a licensed architect, I had no idea how many details would need to be decided upon, as we moved forward. Everything from paint colors, to lighting design, to flooring—all had to be decided. And I am not one who easily makes decisions on all these things.

Fortunately for me, God has blessed our parish with dedicated lay men and women who offered their time and talents. A great blessing for a parish priest is to have reliable, dedicated parishioners. A priest may even

be saintly, but he cannot do everything. So much in the running of a parish comes down to the cooperation of the laity. I thank God for the parishioners we have here at Mary Immaculate Queen Church, and I hope that you all will always be supportive of your pastors, helping in all the works of the parish, according to your abilities. Together, we can accomplish much for God's honor and for the good of souls.

May this summer be for all of you a time of relaxation and of the joyful living of our precious Faith. Please continue your prayers for our seminary and for vocations to the priesthood. We pray for all of you daily.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI



Part of our church remodel project included re-paving the roads on our property.