



# THE GUARDIAN

Although the month of January was quite mild, with only a small amount of snow, February has more than made up for it. There has been plenty of sledding around the seminary, given the frequent snowfalls. We also made a ramp for jumping, which was a lot of fun.

We have also enjoyed a couple of basketball games versus the Mount Saint Michael students. Since they have a full-size gym, it is a nice opportunity for us and lots of fun. Soon, we will start our annual pool tournament.

We also have made a good start to Lent. Even though we are all performing various sacrifices, Father keeps reminding us that our first

will also honor this great saint during the month of March, and especially pray to him for vocations. Remember also to pray for our seminary, which is named for this great saint. We also will be sure to pray for you and your intentions. Thanks for reading our newsletter!

### Ireland's Apostle

by Anthony Strain, gr. 8

St. Patrick, Bishop and Apostle of Ireland, was born about the year 389 A.D. His father, Calpornius, was a deacon and his grandfather was a priest. At this time there was no law of celibacy in Christianity. It is believed that Patrick's full name was Patrick Magonus Sucatus.

At the age of sixteen he did not take his faith seriously. He was of Christian heritage but did not pay much attention to his religion. In that same year he was kidnapped, with others of his age, by sea raiders. He was taken to Ireland and there made a slave. It was believed that his

six years of captivity were spent very close to Ballymena in County Antrim, on the slopes of a mountain now called Slemish.

When the end of six years had come, he heard a voice in his sleep telling him to get back to

### March Calendar

- 2-3 – Annual Achievement testing
- 3 – Matthew's 14<sup>th</sup> birthday
- 8 – Thaddeus' 18<sup>th</sup> birthday
- 14 – Seminary-sponsored parish breakfast, in honor of Saint Joseph and Saint Patrick
- 17 – Saint Patrick's Day talent show
- 19 – Feast of Saint Joseph; Solemn High Mass; special schedule
- 25 – Feast of the Annunciation; chanted Vespers
- 26 – End of Third Quarter
- 29 – First day of Fourth Quarter; Holy Week

freedom and to the land of his birth. Patrick then ran away from his master and went to his family. When Patrick returned home his family urged him to stay, but Patrick felt that he must leave. He spent many years in Gaul (France) in monasteries. He spent about fifteen years in the monastery of Auxerre where he was ordained.

Bishop Palladius was a missionary in Ireland. Later he was killed among the Scotts in Britain. Bishop Germanus of Auxerre suggested Patrick to replace him. Patrick was consecrated in 432 A.D. and went back to Ireland. Patrick's former master, who held him captive there for

*Continued on Page 2*



*Remember man, that thou are dust... Seminarians receiving ashes from Fr. Philip.*

penance is that of daily duty. Studying isn't fun, but that is our daily duty.

During March we pray extra prayers daily to Saint Joseph, our seminary patron. We will celebrate his feastday (as we do each year) with a Solemn High Mass. We hope that you

*Continued from Page 1*

## **Ireland's Apostle**

six years, heard of his coming and set his house ablaze, where he perished in the fire.

Patrick went on to convert many people throughout Ireland and drove the snakes out of the country. He died about the year 461 A.D. and was buried near the fortress of Saul near the future cathedral town of Down.

## **A Great Hobby**

*by Andrew Wertish, gr. 8*

**M**aking rosaries is a very relaxing hobby. There are several of us who make rosaries here at the seminary. About half of us make rosaries, whether it be cord rosaries or chain rosaries. I make chain rosaries and my brother makes cord rosaries. It is sometimes a challenge to make chain rosaries, but it feels good after you're done making a rosary.

There are many beads and crucifixes to get and use. There are glass beads, metal beads, pearl beads, and many others. For your supplies you need rosary pliers, wire, beads, crucifixes, and center pieces. I get my rosary supplies off of a site called Gifts Catholic, which has a lot of sales. You have to make every link by twisting wire into a loop on both sides of the bead with a rosary pliers.

One type of bead that I like is the hematite bead. This bead is a semi-precious stone, but is expensive unless it is on sale. This makes a nice, heavy, man's rosary, which is



*The seminarians posed for a group photo at their second skiing excursion.*

fun to make. You can also remake rosaries, but this is very hard, for you first have to take apart the rosary bead by bead. Only then can you remake it. It can sometimes take a long time to make a chain rosary. Working non-stop on a rosary takes me an hour and a half, but it may take a little longer for beginners.

Cord rosaries are also very nice. They are usually made

with either wooden beads or plastic beads. There are many different types and colors of string. My brother Arlin gets his supplies from Panda Hall. There are many types of wood beads: olive wood, cocoa wood, and some other stained colored wood beads. There are also many beautiful wooden crucifixes and wooden center pieces. Corded rosaries with wooden beads and wooden crucifixes are very light and easy to carry. I have a cord rosary myself and I think it is a very handy rosary. So cord rosaries are also very nice.

So all in all, making rosaries is a very good hobby and helps you and others out spiritually. Thank you for reading this *Guardian* article, and remember to pray your rosary every day!

## **The Homework Haunt**

*by Thaddeus Kuck, gr. 11*

**A** couple of weeks ago most of the seminarians were sitting in the recreation room in our play clothes. We were waiting for a couple more to come down so that we could go to the gym for a brutal game of dodge ball. It was about seven o'clock in the evening, which is right during our study hall. We normally go down to the gym after every one or at least some of us are done with our homework. Fr. Benedict walked through and said "This is the oddest group of seminarians that I have taught. All of you do your homework right after school instead of during the silent study hall." I think it is because we desire to be free and unconstrained by our academics. We are true Americans always seeking freedom. Homework gives us this feeling of slavery or bondage which sits in the back of our minds and haunts us until it is finished.

We normally don't get too much homework, but some days, especially Mondays, it seems, we get loaded. We can always count on a math lesson and some pages to read for theology and geography. Fr. Philip usually gives us some homework in Latin but he doesn't give any homework on feasts of Our Lady and the 26th of every month because his patron saint's feast day, St. Philip Neri, is on the 26th of May.

Every week we get a math and vocabulary test and we normally have to write something for Mrs. Gallagher. We also have to read a book and do a short report on it once a month, and we might have a couple of other tests for each class once a month. Three of the twelve seminarians also write a *Guardian* article each month. In U.S. History we don't normally have any homework but we read a section and go over the questions in class. For choir and P.E. we have little to nothing for homework.

*Continued on Page 4*



*Thaddeus led the procession of candles out of the church on Candlemas Day.*



*The seminarians really enjoyed the competition of basketball with the St. Michael's students.*



*Gabriel sails over the snow ramp on a sledding run.*



*We pray the Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent.*



*Father Benedict receives the blessed ashes from Fr. Philip.*



*Thiet and Arlin get in some practice before the pool tournament begins.*

Continued from Page 2

## The Homework Haunt

Earlier this year we had set teams for football and I was the captain of one of them, so I had to come up with plays, but other than that I have had no homework for P.E. Overall I would say that we have a pretty well balanced day between work and play.

## A Glorious Day

by Jonathan Lehnen, gr. 9

Into the gondola and up you go,  
To the top of the mountain where there's tons of snow;  
You ski all day long and have lots of fun,  
And you hope the day will never be done.

But all too soon, before you know,  
You have to take off your skis 'cause it's time to go.  
But as you leave you are happy and say,  
"I had so much fun skiing today!"

## Seminary Support Club

If you are not yet a member of the Seminary Support Club and would like to become a member, you may write to the seminary at the address below. Members pledge to pray for the success of the seminary and, if able, to send a regular financial contribution for its support.



On a special occasion Mrs. Gallagher helped the seminarians on kitchen duty.

younger boys, who have never made a retreat before –“Do you mean we have to keep silence all day?” they ask in consternation. The answer is that, no, they will be allowed to speak during the daily recreation period, to their great relief.

The practice of silence is one of the aspects of seminary life. Every day there is strict silence from after night prayers until breakfast the next morning. Then there is the silence of the retreat, which is an opportunity to listen to the voice of God, speaking to the soul. For a young boy, keeping silence is a real sacrifice, but for religious, it is a treasure.

During Lent, let us all make an effort to practice silence more, avoiding unnecessary words. We speak so often during the day, but how many of those words are idle words, if not even downright sinful. “You shall have to render an account for every idle word,” Our Lord tells us. Silence is not really so difficult. Once you practice it, silence becomes a joy.

As we meditate on the life of our great patron Saint Joseph in a special way this month, we recall that he was a quiet man, dedicated to his daily duty. There are no words of Saint Joseph recorded in the Bible. Surely, he spoke when necessary, but he spent much more time in quiet contemplation. May we all learn to follow his example!

As we continue the important season of Lent throughout this month, let us all resolve to make a good Lent, through sacrifice and meditation on the Passion of Our Lord. Be assured that we remember you, our benefactors, in our daily prayers. We are most grateful for your prayers and support. May God reward you!

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI



Father Philip directs the seminarians at the Talent Show in singing Ave Verum.

## In Quiet Stillness

Every year when I announce to the seminarians that we are going to have a retreat, there is the same question from the