



# THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

September 2021

Classes are already in full swing, as we seminarians all arrived by the 22<sup>nd</sup> from Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and New York. This year we have no freshmen. There are 3 seniors, 2 juniors, and 4 sophomores. After just a week of classes we are all getting along well.

Every morning there are 2 Masses—the one at the church is for the laity, while the seminarians and Sisters attend one at the same time in the seminary chapel. Two seminarians are assigned in advance to serve. The one that serves at the church walks over there and sets everything up in time for the 7:00 am start time. Here at the seminary the sacristans set up for Mass the night before, leaving just a few things to be done after morning prayers. As you can see, we all have plenty of opportunity to serve.

as we seek to grow in the knowledge and practice of our faith.

Our annual three-day outing to Lake Coeur d’Alene takes place on the last 3 days of August, so we will have to tell you about that in our next issue. Needless to say, we all look forward to this annual event, which is a great way to start a new school year. Surely, it is going to be a great school year. Please pray for the success of our school year. We thank you for reading our newsletter, and we promise to pray for you as well. God bless you all.

## Diving Back In

by Joseph Strain, gr. 11

Here we are again after completing another summer break, and we have begun another school year. It seems we all have returned almost as soon as we have just gotten used to our summer schedule. Up here at the Seminary, we have a schedule to follow for every day of the week. We have just returned from our summer schedule back to our school schedule that we are very familiar with.

For the next nine months, we will be waking up bright and early to, first and most important of all, attend Holy Mass, and then to move on to our daily duties. One of the most important things for those Seminarians returning for their 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> year, is to retrain ourselves to get used to the schedule and also to help the new ones familiarize themselves with the daily schedule.

When we all arrived on Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, we ate breakfast and

## September Calendar

- 5 – Our secretary’s birthday
- 8 – Feast of Our Lady’s nativity; High Mass
- 12 – Joseph’s 16<sup>th</sup> birthday; High Mass in Lewiston
- 15 – Feast of Our Mother of Sorrows
- 24 – Our Lady of Ransom; mid-quarter
- 29 – Saint Michael the Archangel; no homework day

shared what happened during our summer break with each other. Then some of us went with Fr. Philip to play disc golf on a nearby course during the afternoon. For the rest of the day we unpacked and settled into our rooms for the year.

This school year began on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, with great expectations as to what new subjects we would be having this year. As always, we begin the day with Latin, English, math, and theology. This is the permanent part of the schedule. The only part on that schedule that may change is who our Latin teacher will be (always one of the priests).

The new subjects this year seem to have great excitement in store for us. Mr. Keaveney is teaching us physics after our lunch break, and Fr. Philip is teaching us “The History of Christian Civilization.”

I am looking forward to all these subjects and going to the lake for our first full weekend here and to the rest of the year.



Gabriel precedes Father Philip to the altar. Each seminarian has ample opportunity to serve Mass.

We are also planning on singing High Masses. The first one will be on the feast of Our Lady’s Nativity, September 8<sup>th</sup>. We especially try to honor Our Blessed Mother on all her feastdays, asking for her intercession

## “If a man will not work, neither let him eat.”

by William Davis, gr. 11

For myself and my brother, as I am sure with many of you, we had a busy summer this year. Now, play and relaxation are also important aspects of a balanced schedule, but work is vitally important in keeping one's body and mind from becoming stagnant and susceptible to temptation. As that classic saying goes, “Idle hands are the devil’s workshop,” but working means so much more than just not being idle. Work brings us closer to our family. By working with our loved ones and relatives, we build memories and relationships that no amount of TV watching or video game-playing can create.

Working also should bring us closer to God. Is not the motto of one of the greatest religious orders, the Benedictines, “Ora et Labora” work and pray? By working with the proper attitude, one can unite himself with God by offering his labors to the Lord of Harvests. Not to say the only work that is meritorious is heavy manual labor. I am sure that you can gain just as much merit by patiently cleaning the house as you can by moving bricks and lumber. Work is also good for oneself, being a good way to take your mind off unnecessary distractions, and also an excellent way to earn merits for the next life.

Not doing work that needs to be done is called laziness, or sloth. The habit of laziness, and unfortunately many people are afflicted by it, can cause trouble in the home, trouble at work, and especially trouble in the soul. Work should not be this big, scary monster, but it should be a companion with whom you reason. If you balance the amount of work you do to the amount of recreation you do, you will be well off. Although it is bad to not work enough, it is also not good to over-work yourself, for every person has a breaking point.

“If a man will not work, neither let him eat” (II Thessalonians, 3:10). St. Paul has a good motto there. You should do your part to help others, not only because it’s a decent thing to do, but also because working to help others is a good way to make friends, or to resolve enmities between you and another, be he or she a fellow employee or your own brother or sister. So when it comes down to it you can always follow the example of the Holy Family. I will bet you that no family has worked harder or been happier than those who are now the most blessed of the blessed. And so if we do our best to follow their example, how could we go astray?

## Camp St. Joseph

by Thiet Nguyen, gr. 12

On July 23, I returned from my home to help out Father Philip and have some refreshing time at our annual Boys Camp before the beginning of another school year. Arriving at the seminary on a Friday afternoon, I suddenly felt as if I was home again. As



*Classes have resumed at Saint Joseph Seminary.*

soon as I opened the seminary entrance door, I heard distinctly some heavy rumbling coming from upstairs; the first one to greet me was good old Victor, our chocolate lab. After unpacking, I ran into Jesse, my good friend and our seminary's graduate, and later some other boys who arrived early to help with preparations.

The next morning, I attended Holy Mass and helped Mr. Keaveney and Brother Thomas setting up different necessities for camp. We put out the water stands and picnic tables and rearranged the parish hall that would soon be used for meals and board games. After Sunday

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*Victor was glad when the twins arrived back at the seminary, having been driven from Minnesota by their parents.*



*The seminarians quickly got back into form at the ping-pong table.*



*Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on First Friday and First Saturday.*



*Victor looks on as Joe milks the cow.*



*Hungry seminarians go through the line at supper.*

### **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 on page 4. Members pledge to pray for the success of the seminary and, if able, to send a regular financial contribution for its support.

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## **Camp St. Joseph**

Mass, I began to see more boys of different ages and priests showing up in the parking lot. Among them were boys whom I made friends with in my first boys' camp four years ago. The boys recreated in the gym, the parking lot and the volleyball court and had breakfast shortly after. Father Philip counted altogether 77 boys and 6 priests in attendance, more than in previous years.

They eventually headed up to the camp site. Father Philip assigned me to assist as a counselor. The camp lasted five full days. The boys were kept spiritually active by daily Holy Mass and sermons, and occupied each day with different activities and games. At the camp site the boys were kept busy with different physical and spiritual activities like the swing, arm-wrestling, bonfires and Catholic discussions at night. Every day ended with night prayer, thanking God for all his blessings throughout the day.

On the first day of camp, with the strength of almost 80 boys and young men, we carried up and erected a large wooden cross on our camp site. Monday and Wednesday were spent on the paintball course, now being used for airsoft; Tuesday and Thursday were lake days with cookouts and volleyball games. It was bittersweet for me to say farewell to my friends and fellow campers the last day of camp. Thanks be to God it was a successful boys' camp. The young campers were not troublesome – that definitely made it easier for six priests, me and the other counselors to look after them.

To end this on a good note, I would like to thank God, St. Joseph, our camp's patron, Father Philip, all the priests and all those who have always made it possible for the boys' camp to be held here annually. May God reward them. I think being in a Catholic boys' camp is definitely beneficial and important for young boys. The boys are able to create strong Catholic bonds among their peers by forming new friendships, gaining confidence, strength and creativity in nature; and most importantly, being close to God with daily Mass and spiritual instructions from the priests that they may secure their salvation and grow as respected and faithful Catholic young men, who will be the future of our country and Holy Mother the Church.

## **Our Mother and Queen**

The first major feast of Our Lady during the course of the school year is her nativity on September 8<sup>th</sup>. We always celebrate this day at the seminary with a High Mass, devotions and festive events. It is the first of many Marian feasts throughout the scholastic year, on which we seek to honor Our Blessed Mother in a special way.

The feastdays of Our heavenly Mother are important for all Catholics, but especially so for seminarians. If they go on to become priests, they will need a strong and tender devotion to Our Lady in order to persevere. During their years of formation, it is this love for and devotion to Our Blessed Mother that enables them to grow in the likeness of Christ. After all, she watched her Son, grow and advance in years. Who better than Mary can nurture these young men into living copies of Jesus?



*The Seminarians flank the statue of our great patron St. Joseph.*

Here at the seminary, we are busy doing God's work. Hidden away, as it were, in Mary's Immaculate Heart, these young men fulfill their daily routine of prayer, study, chores and recreation, by which they are being formed. But it is Mary, the mediatrix of all graces, who grants them the graces needed to grow spiritually. May she continue to aid this work by her tender love for these young men!

We are most grateful for you, our friends and benefactors, for supporting this work of formation. Please continue to keep our seminary in your prayers. For our part, we daily pray for all our benefactors, and we know that God will abundantly reward your charity. May Jesus and Mary bless you and your families.

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*