



# THE GUARDIAN

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Almost immediately after returning to the seminary from our Christmas vacation we had the ceremony of blessing of Epiphany Water (on January 5<sup>th</sup>), followed by the High Mass for the feast of the Epiphany. Unfortunately, the church on that day was not as full as it normally would be, due to a heavy snowstorm. Several days later we opened our Epiphany gifts at the annual gift exchange. Included among them was the surprise gift from the priests for each of us—a sweatshirt stamped with the name of our seminary!

The past month also found us singing two funeral Masses for departed parishioners, as well as a High Mass for Father Philip at his mission in Lewiston, Idaho. Right now we are preparing for the High Mass and ceremonies for Candlemas Day, which takes place on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Later in the month we will start preparing for Sunday Vespers, which we sing every Sunday of Lent.

Also during January we enjoyed two ski trips to Silver Mountain. Everyone did well, despite a few falls. We are hoping that we will be able to go skiing at least once more before the end of winter. We have also been sledding on the hills around the property, although we could use more snow for good sledding conditions.

As usual during January, there was a visit from the priests who were meeting at Mount Saint Michael. We had a nice meal with an opportunity to converse with the priests and get to know them better. This is an annual tradition in mid-January that we all look forward to.

Finally, I want to tell you about a big change in our church—at last the new stained glass windows were installed last week. What a difference they make! There are nine large, beautiful windows honoring various saints. Next month one of us will write an article on this new addition to our church! May God bless you and thanks for praying for us and for more vocations to our seminary.

## “I Am the Immaculate Conception”

by Jonathan Lehnen, gr. 10

Bernadette Soubirous, a simple, uneducated peasant girl, was gifted with nineteen apparitions of Our Lady. The first of these apparitions occurred in Lourdes, a little town in France, on February 11, 1858.

She had gone out to gather wood with her sisters but, because she was sickly she walked slowly while her sisters went ahead, leaving her alone to catch up with them. When she came to a little stream she began to remove her shoes, but all of a sudden, a violent wind startled her. When she looked up she saw a beautiful Lady in the grotto on the opposite side of the stream.

appeared on the ground. This water has been the source of many cures. The Lady requested a chapel to be built in that area where she appeared and processions to come there.

## February Calendar

- 2 – Purification BVM feastday; Candlemas ceremonies
- 11 – Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes; High Mass
- 23 – Mid-quarter
- 26 – Parish Talent Show and pre-Lent celebration

Stricken with awe, she subconsciously pulled out her rosary and fell to her knees. After they had prayed the rosary together, the Lady vanished.

In the other apparitions, the Lady told her to do penance always. In one of the apparitions a spring of water



Father Casimir at the piano leads some of the priests and seminarians in an impromptu chorus.

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## “I Am the Immaculate Conception”

News of the apparitions spread throughout the country. The grotto soon was filled with people every time Bernadette witnessed an apparition, but they could not see anything. The only reason they knew that the Lady was present was when Bernadette was in ecstasy. However, no one knew for sure that it was Our Lady. Many people believed in the apparitions, but some were skeptical. Some thought it might be the devil. But it was soon to be known that it was truly the Mother of God, for Bernadette asked the Lady who she was and she humbly replied, “I am the Immaculate Conception.”

Bernadette brought this news to her pastor who was still skeptical about the apparitions. But when she told him, he believed because Bernadette was not educated to even know what those words meant. It was impossible for her to have made it up. As such, it was now entirely certain that the Lady was Mary. The apparitions were later approved by the Church, and we now have the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on February 11.

## A Waltzing Matilda & the Holy Terror

*by Gabriel Davis, gr. 12*

The pain was like that of a knife or perhaps a gunshot. It started in the forearm then finished its excruciating march, like a lightning bolt, in the thumb. I didn't have time for a thumb cramp. Matilda would soon be done eating her grain and then, in clockwork precision, would spend the remainder of her time trying

hear her chuckle to herself as I looked down at my ruined twenty minutes of painfully hard work, steaming in the chill fall air. At that moment life could not have been more miserable. Why, oh why, did we get this cow?!

Some people enjoy collecting coins or stamps. Others find building model ships or planes a fun hobby and pastime. We however, at the minor seminary, have a much simpler and humble hobby than any of these. We bought a cow. Now as far as hobbies go, owning a dairy cow is a most rewarding but also very demanding endeavor. The amount of work from the milking process to all of the intricacies and dynamics of feeding, watering, sheltering, sanitation, regularity and general upkeep alone would be sufficient to fill this *Guardian* article. However the reward and return value is very significant.

We named our cow Matilda, who is a three year-old Jersey with a mild temperament and an intense love of grain, which gained her the name Waltzing Matilda after the manner of her charging after food. We average about four gallons of milk and half a gallon of cream a day, which by the end of the week equals roughly thirty gallons and four gallons respectively. We have also made a considerable amount of butter, ricotta, and ice cream, and have just recently started on our first ten-pound wheel of sharp cheddar cheese. Besides the edible, the benefits of owning a cow are quite numerous. However, I would not recommend it to everyone, considering that we have twelve people to share the labor. That makes the individual work load relatively light and even fun.

When we first began the milking process in the humble dark ages of a milk bucket and two sets of hands it was quite arduous and difficult. However, we advanced quickly from this rustic method and began to use the milking machine. Although the machine cut the actual milking time from twenty minutes to about five minutes, the amount of time it takes to clean the machine equals the time doing it the old fashioned way. Cleaning the machine required three five gallon buckets of cleaning materials that we obtained from the seminary and would bring down via a four wheeler. It was around December when, after the tearful demise of our ATV, we decided to make a whole separate sanitized room in the barn for the sole purpose of processing milk. We had finally advanced to the imperial age of milking. There is so much more that could be said concerning this most luxurious milking room and apparatus, but it must be saved for a future article.

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*Joseph and Matthew prepare the equipment for milking the cow.*

to kick over the bucket. But I had to break for just a minute, for the cramp was getting worse. To help ease my pain, Mrs. Opportunity seizing the moment, in one swift motion planted her hoof in the milk. I could almost



*Father Gabriel poses with Mrs. Gallagher, our English teacher, during the priests' visit to the seminary.*



*Andrew takes advantage of some free time to play a tune on the piano.*



*Arlin takes a jump during the recent ski day at Silver Mountain.*



*Thaddeus fulfills his final requirement for speech class.*



*Father Philip and William show off the first wheel of cheese made from our own milk.*



*Dodge ball is one of many favorite games for recreation.*

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## **A Waltzing Matilda & the Holy Terror**

We are incalculably blessed here at the minor seminary. Besides having every outlet and means to grow spiritually and mentally, we also learn useful and beneficial domestic trades such as cooking and milking a cow. I want to especially thank Fr. Philip for teaching us so much concerning these aforementioned trades and by being the Holy Terror of discipline whenever we tried to make shortcuts in our work and made dumb mistakes. If there is one thing I have learned while being here at the minor seminary it is never to take shortcuts in life for they only lead to a clumsy finish, and the Holy Terror will be after you.

## **A Day Full of Fun**

*by Arlin Wertish, gr. 10*

**O**n the morn of the 20<sup>th</sup> of January I lay in my bed waiting for the dreaded sound of the bell. Why I was awake I don't know. But my fear transformed from dread and drowsiness into joy and energy as I gingerly rolled out of bed and knelt erect and recited my morning offering. Then I rushed down the stairs and enjoyed a hot cup of coffee. After a full cup of deliciousness, I milked with Thaddeus and then attended Mass, after which we loaded the van and were off to Silver Mountain.

Eventually we were skiing down the wonderful winter maze. It was almost hard to pick a slope, they were all so inviting, except the bumpy black diamonds. First, we all went down a big, wide slope called Ross Run. It was quite easy, enabling us to go very fast. When we all reached the bottom we took a picture. Yuck! What a way to ruin a good time. Then we split up into pairs, each going down different sides of the mountain.

I personally spent time going down slopes like Noah's Park which is just a run full of jumps. You get so much speed it almost feels like you're flying. A lot of the seminarians went up the mountain and went down the black diamonds and such. I personally like taking the jumps rather than going to the steeper slopes. The day was good and clear, but when I was going down a slope some fog set in. I could barely see ten feet

in front of me. People would just randomly appear, it seemed. Luckily, though, it didn't last long. Other than that, the day was just a ball full of fun.

## **Lessons of the Liturgy**

Music has always been an important aspect of the liturgy. There are High Masses, chanting of the Divine Office, and the singing of religious hymns. As such, singing is an important part of the education of future priests, for a priest needs to be able to sing the various parts of the Mass correctly, if he is to edify the faithful and give glory to God.

Here at the minor seminary choir practice is held twice a week, sometimes oftener. The boys seem to enjoy it, and often even spend time singing during their evening recreation. Gradually, they have enlarged their repertoire, and we are even considering making one or two music recordings (at the encouragement of parishioners.) Of course, that will take time, and extra time is often in short supply at the seminary.

In addition to the benefit of use in the liturgy, music instruction also helps these young men learn to appreciate good music. There is so much trash in what passes for music today. We need to instruct our youth to make good choices in what they listen to. Also, by using their voices to praise God, they will gain a double merit, as Saint Augustine tells us ("Singing is praying twice").

Allow me to conclude these brief remarks on the importance of religious music by quoting the first few verses of the 95<sup>th</sup> psalm. (This is just one of many such references in Scripture, especially in the

psalms): "Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all you lands. Sing to the Lord; bless His name; announce His salvation, day after day. Tell His glory among the nations; among all peoples, His wondrous deeds."

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for your support, especially for the many Christmas donations we have received. I wish there were time to write to each of you to express our appreciation! Please continue to support our work; you can be sure that we pray daily for you, our benefactors and supporters. May God abundantly reward you!

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*



*A view of the new stained glass windows on the north side of the church: Saint Mary Magdalen, Saint Ann, and Saint Rita*