



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

April 2022

Matilda was a bad girl. Several weeks ago we got a supply of new grain, which is stored in barrels. Someone had not screwed the lids tightly on the barrels, and that clever cow figured out how to unscrew the lids with her teeth. The result was a very sick cow, as she gorged herself on grain. So for a few days she gave little to no milk. Fortunately, she is well now and back to her usual four gallons a day, much to our delight.

March has been a significant month for other reasons. We had our annual retreat in early March with Father Gregory Drahrman from Colorado. Later, we hosted our annual parish breakfast in honor of Saint Joseph and Saint Patrick. Green was much in evidence on people's clothing for the occasion, while we seminarians all wore green ties. We also had our annual Saint Patrick's Day Talent Show, which was a lot of fun.

chapel on the feast of Our Lady's Annunciation, followed by another all-night vigil of adoration. Now we are looking forward to Holy Week and the beautiful ceremonies of the Church. Let's all be sure to spend this Passiontide in greater prayer and penance, as we look forward to Easter.

"Three Days of Silence"

by *Thaddeus Kuck, gr. 12*

In the preceding month Fr. Gregory Drahrman came up from Olathe, Colorado, and preached our annual Lenten retreat. It was wonderful. I have always enjoyed the silence of retreat because it keeps us recollected and able to pray and meditate better.

Fr. Gregory gave five, forty-five-minute lectures or sermons that were all very applicable and beneficial to me. He turned our thoughts towards Calvary during one of them and gave



Father Philip gives Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at our church.

On Sundays of Lent we have been chanting Vespers. We also had a High Mass (a capella) in our seminary

"Greater love than this no man hath." He loved us to death, even to the cruelest and most painful death of the

April Calendar

- 3 – Anthony's 15th birthday
- 10 – Palm Sunday
- 12 – Gabriel's 18th birthday
- 14-15 – Holy Thursday/Good Friday; special schedule
- 16 – Holy Saturday; Easter Vacation begins
- 17 – Easter Sunday; Children's Easter Egg Hunt
- 25 – Classes resume; Procession of the Greater Litanies
- 28 – Feast of St. Louis Marie de Montfort; begin preparation for Holy Slavery
- 29 – Begin annual Forty Hours Adoration

a lot of material to meditate on.

The crucifix can teach us so much if we only think about it and meditate on it. One of the many things that it teaches us is love. Christ sets the bar:

cross. He went through His passion to redeem us, to open the gates of heaven. And yet we cannot keep up with our few mortifications and sacrifices that we have promised Him.

We do not try to return the love that He showed us; instead we offend Him. We are the Jews and Roman soldiers that put Him to death. But they had an excuse and Christ proclaimed their excuse when He said, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." We, however, have no excuse because we know that sin is evil and that, because of sin, Christ was crucified. Let us, therefore, make the firm resolution to

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“Three Days of Silence ”

fulfill the promises that we made at the beginning of Lent. By doing so we will console Jesus and encourage Him to keep going as Our Lady did when she met Him on His way to Calvary.

These are only a few of the wonderful thoughts that Fr. Gregory brought to our minds. These are only a few of the many topics Father so beautifully explained. These are only a few of the profound meditations that occupied our mind during the all-night adoration. These are only a few of the tantalizing thoughts that will be with us for the rest of our lives. We are all greatly indebted to Fr. Gregory for such a grace-filled and happy retreat.

Consuasor (The Adviser)

by Andrew Wertish, gr. 10

Do you sleep well at night? Do you have a voice that nags at you? If so, then you have the blessing of a good conscience. You have not suppressed your conscience into silence from your sins. The day you have silenced your conscience is the day of the devil's triumph—when there is no longer an inner voice that tells us that we are in the wrong and have no right to be doing what we are doing. Every bad pleasure we take delight in is slowly silencing our conscience.

First of all what is a conscience? If anyone has watched Pinocchio then you're in luck. You know who Jiminy Cricket is! He is Pinocchio's conscience. You can see in this kid's movie how the sinner silences his conscience. But remember, your conscience is always there waiting for you to open your ears, just as Jiminy Cricket is ever faithful to Pinocchio.

The devil hates the conscience. It is always the annoying messenger to tell you you're in the wrong. But the devil uses the conscience to his advantage after the sin. He uses it to make you feel too guilty to go to confession. We must realize the devil's trickery and listen to Jiminy Cricket. When your Jiminy Cricket is silenced the devil presses his advantage. He becomes our master by choice. The devil has dominion over those who give it to him on a silver platter. He is like the

wicked baron who is a usurper to the throne of his lord.

In this case, all it takes for the devil is to throw in a suggestion that we concur with pleasure. To get his throne, the devil has to go through the vanguard, our Guardian Angel, and the messenger, the conscience. The devil tries his best to convince us by his many temptations. When Jiminy Cricket is silenced the devil has a banquet of success in the temple of our soul. We must stop this usurper from silencing our Jiminy. Let us make a stand and defend the temple of our soul. It is time to resist the demon and tell him no more. He has conquered too many thrones, has had too many banquets of success. Let us strain an ear for our ever-caring conscience to save us from peril.

Consolatrix Afflictorum

by Jorge Cruz, gr. 10

What is life but a valley of tears and sorrows. It seems as though all will end by the coming of time. Friends, family, loved ones and relationships will end or leave us altogether. Illness, economic struggle and emotional tribulations overwhelms us. Aridity, tepidity, faults and the feeling of God's absence become our torture and no matter how much we try all seems lost. This life is filled with roses that, after they wither, only leave the bitter thorns. Life consumes us with interior and exterior struggles and all remedies seem useless.

Oh, what a bitter life, O what crosses we have to bear! What can we do when the cross feels too heavy and the

Cyrenean is nowhere to be found? What can we do without any Veronicas to offer us a linen? What can we do when we feel all alone in Gethsemane and all the apostles are asleep? Oh, good Christian soul, there's no greater remedy than the hands of Mary. What sweeter balm for our sorrows than the name of that Lady who is all sweetness and joy! Didn't she say those consoling words to Juan Diego: “Hear and let it penetrate your heart: Do not be troubled or

weighed down with grief; do not fear any illness or vexation, anxiety or pain. Am I not here your mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not your fountain of life?”

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The seminarians listen intently as Father Gregory delivers a spiritual conference during the retreat.



Everyone pitched in to help Brother Thomas make a larger pasture for our milk cow.



The seminarians join the religious in chanting the Divine Office in the seminary chapel.



The Sisters bid farewell to Mrs. Nancy Gallagher, who has returned to her family after giving 15 years to our seminary and school.



The fund-raising parish breakfast was held after each of the three Sunday Masses on March 20.



All of the seminarians have an opportunity to serve the Stations of the Cross on Fridays.



The seminarians approach the altar to receive the blessed ashes on their foreheads on Ash Wednesday.

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Consolatrix Afflictorum

Oh sorrowful soul, when life seems dim and bitter and we appear to be abandoned even by God, know that your heavenly Mother will rather let the world burn than to abandon you, for on Calvary she made that sweet promise to almighty God to be your Mother. If she searched for Our Lord for three days, how much more will she seek for a child entrusted to her? We let sorrow suffocate us and we become victims to depression or anxiety. Oh, we are men of little faith.

Our Lord at the time of His great sorrow wished to give us all, even the one he loved the most. So much does He love us that not wanting us to become orphans, in this foreign land, he gave us his Father who is in heaven and a Mother who is full of grace. He gave us this Queen so, just like him, we may look into her eyes and there find the strength to

carry our crosses. Know that under her mantle there are no thorns, there's no weariness, there are no tears, there's no separation or betrayal. Under her mantle there's only love and hope. My good reader, in times of great tribulations, think of this Queen that is all fair and all good and you will see that there's nothing to fear. All our fears disappear when she says those words: "I will never abandon you."

The Great Week

As you well know, the date of Easter changes each year and is determined to be the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring. Consequently, Easter occurs sometime between March 22 and April 25. This year Easter will be on one of the later dates on which it can occur.

Be that as it may, the date of Easter determines many

other feasts and events of the Church year and is preceded by the most important time known as Holy Week. During this great week we priests are very busy with preparations for the liturgy, executing carefully the liturgical ceremonies, hearing confessions, and, of course, preparing for the celebration of Easter.

In seminaries, the young men take an active part in preparing for the liturgy and serving at the various ceremonies. The ceremonies of this week are unique and intricate, requiring careful preparation. Here at Saint



Father Philip as deacon chants the gospel at the Solemn High Mass, as Father Julian Gilchrist as subdeacon holds the book.

Joseph Seminary all the seminarians are involved in different ways with sacristy work and serving the ceremonies. It is an important part of their preparation for the priesthood, if God calls them to that dignity.

We encourage you to participate in as many of the Holy Week ceremonies as you are able. As you do so, please remember to pray for those whom God is calling to His service. May our youth be generous in responding to the call of the Good Shepherd, who seeks laborers for His vineyard!

We are most grateful for your support of our seminary. Please remember the value of your prayers for seminarians and for priests. And be assured of a daily remembrance in our prayers for you and your loved ones, as we continue this important work of the Church.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI