



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

August 2022

From the Rector:

As I write we are currently engaged in the annual Boys Camp. Father Philip is in charge of the 50 or so boys at the camp, and he is amply assisted by several other priests and 7 seminarians, together with Brother Thomas Marie. As you can imagine, hosting the annual camp requires plenty of preparation and planning.

Shortly after the camp concludes we will turn our attention to preparations for the new school year. With several new additions and the returning seminarians from last year, we again

Mary here in Idaho. For the past several years these religious seminarians have resided and studied in Olathe, Colorado, but so have the novices. Since the priest in charge there has also the task of training the novices, the concern is that the religious seminarians receive adequate instruction and attention as they prepare for the priesthood.

To help with their training the bishop has assigned Father Gregory Marie (Drahman) to move here. He will now be my assistant in our parish of Mary Immaculate Queen, and he will also assist with teaching, both in our minor and major seminary here. Father Philip

August Calendar

- 9 – Feast of Saint John Vianney, patron of priests
- 11 – Feast of Saint Philomena; 16th birthday of Andrew and Arlin
- 15 – Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady
- 18 – Arrival of religious major seminarians
- 22 – Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 23 – Minor seminarians arrive; orientation
- 29-31 – Annual outing to Lake Coeur d’Alene



The priests, seminarians and other counselors pause to take a group photo.

expect about a dozen boys. Their presence at the seminary, however, will be augmented by the residence of several religious seminarians from our major seminary, so that will be quite a change.

Every few years we have a major meeting of the priests of our religious congregation to discuss our apostolate and the importance of our vocation. This year the bishop surprised me by saying that he had decided to move the religious major seminary to the City of

Marie, who has been with me the past three years, has been transferred to Mount Saint Michael. It will be a cross to lose him, but of course, that is God’s will.

As religious we are accustomed to go where we are sent. That is one of the sanctifying aspects of the religious life—we give up our own will to do what our superior tells us, and that includes where we reside and what we do for our daily duty. Our goal is to always do the will of God as expressed

to us by our superior. Our watchword is that expressed by Our Lord in the Garden: “Father, not my will, but Thine be done.”

At the same time, we can be assured of the assistance of God’s grace as we seek to do His will. Of ourselves, we cannot accomplish anything. Saint Paul put it well: “I can do all things in Him who strengthens me” (Phil., 4:13).

Please remember us in your prayers, as we begin this new phase of our seminary. As usual, we will begin a novena at the end of this month in honor of Our Lady’s nativity, the first major feast of Our Blessed Mother in the school year. Our primary intention will be for the success of the new school year, but we are happy to add your intentions, which is why we have enclosed an intention card. Be assured that we daily remember our benefactors. May God reward you for your support of the work of forming future priests!

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI



Everyone gathered in the parish hall for meals.



A group of the faithful assembled at the City of Mary on July 13 to recite the 15 decades of the Rosary.



The volleyball net came in handy at the park.



As has been our custom, the Boys Camp began with the Stations of the Cross, while a group of boys carried the two beams of the cross to the camp site.



Taking a break between games at the park.



Playing "corn hole" at the park.



Father Philip addresses the boys at one of the daily Masses during the Boys Camp.



Father leads the Angelus with the boys at Farragut State Park.



Boys get into a game of dodgeball in the gym building.



The campers pass in front of the Sacred Heart shrine as they recite the Rosary in procession.



We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee!

Sustain Me with Flowers

by Jorge Cruz, gr. 11

“Sustain me with flowers and comfort me with apples, for I am sick with love” (Canticle of Canticles, 2:5). “It is in dying,” says Saint Francis, “that we are born to eternal life.” Death is but the release of the soul from this prison of flesh and bone, from this city of sorrow to the new Jerusalem, from labor to rest. All the children of Adam have to suffer the pains of life and death, and the Virgin Queen was no exception.

O, don't let your zeal blind you from understanding the beauty of this mystery and draw consolation from it. The blessed Virgin was exempt from original sin yet not from its punishments, sorrow, pain and death, not because she was guilty, but to imitate Christ most perfectly by being loaded with sorrows and pains for love of God and the salvation of mankind. Mary is the mirror reflecting Christ. Our Blessed Mother could not be the perfect co-redemptrix if she didn't imitate perfectly the Redeemer. Therefore, Our Blessed Mother had to suffer the pains of life, just like Christ. Her Immaculate Conception was why she had to suffer: though Christ had preserved her from original sin, she had to gain merits for the gift she received; these merits she had to

had with God surpassed all creatures, even the seraphim. St. Teresa of Avila was dying, because she wasn't dying, Blessed Imelda died in an ecstasy of love and so many saints couldn't resist the divine fire that consumed them. Mary, who was predestined to be the Mother of God, lived a continual martyrdom of love. The fact that she was still alive was a miracle itself and the Holy Trinity had to preserve her life.

To understand this mystery better, think of a tree filled with fruit. The more it grows the more fruit it produces. So much fruit has this tree brought forth that it is not capable of holding them any longer and so they fall. The soul of our Blessed Mother was filled with so much love that she longed for death. St. John of the Cross explains that when a soul has been wounded by the dagger of love it is sorrowful or grieves because God has failed to carry off what he has stolen. In other words, God still preserves the life of the beloved, while she longs to see His face. She longs for heaven, she longs to die.

The cause of death of Our Blessed Mother was not because of illness or old age but because her soul longed to be with God—her mystical union was so great that it caused her death. Those words of the bride from the Canticle of Canticles refer to Our Lady: “O daughters of Jerusalem, if you see my



This year's cross is erected next to that from last year's camp.

achieve through suffering. It could be said Our Blessed Mother had to suffer more than any other human being since the gift she received required a greater sacrifice. So, what caused her death?

The Blessed Virgin suffered from a deadly illness since the moment of her Immaculate Conception, an illness that has killed many—love. The love and the union which Our Lady

beloved tell Him that I languish with love.” Imagine now Our Lady's death. Her face expressed peace, joy and serenity. Her being was consumed in God and her heart was pierced by the arrow of love, while the angels sang: “Behold the handmaid of the Lord...” What great joy must it have been contemplating the Queen of heaven entering triumphant into heaven and finally being liberated from her illness, Love.

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St. Joseph Seminary 15384 N. Church Rd. Rathdrum, ID 83858-7650