



THE GUARDIAN

Vol. XXIV No. 1 Issue #277

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

September 2022

Our first day of classes last week was on Wednesday (August 24th). There are an even dozen seminarians this year, representing Arizona, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, New York, Utah and Washington. Each class level is represented, with half the seminarians in the junior class. There are two seniors this year, and five of the seminarians are here for their first year (although they are not all freshmen.)

So far the teachers have been going easy on us, as there hasn't been much homework. Our subjects this year include theology, Latin, math, English, biology, speech (1 semester) and economics (1 semester). Of course, we also have P.E. and choir.

chores and other things as well. It is nice having them around, and we appreciate their example.

As we send out this newsletter, we are heading to Lake Coeur d'Alene for two full days of fun. This trip is an annual custom at the seminary. It is a nice "get-acquainted" opportunity to spend some time with one another, in order to build that bond of unity which is so important at the seminary.

As was the case last year, we have 2 Masses here every morning. One of them is at the church for the parishioners, while the seminarians and Sisters attend the other Mass here is the seminary chapel. Two seminarians are assigned in advance to serve. The one that serves at the

September Calendar

- 5 – Our secretary's birthday; Labor Day; seminary outing
- 8 – Feast of Our Lady's nativity; Solemn High Mass
- 12 – Joseph's 17th birthday
- 23 – Mid-quarter
- 26 – David's 17th birthday
- 29 – Saint Michael's feastday; no homework

before, leaving just a few things to be done after morning prayers. Everyone gets an opportunity to serve often, usually once a week.

We also have High Masses. The first one will be on the feast of Our Lady's Nativity, September 8th. We especially try to honor Our Blessed Mother on all her feastdays, asking for her intercession as we seek to grow in the knowledge and practice of our faith.

Please pray for the success of our school year. We thank you for reading our newsletter and hope that you will enjoy each issue. We are grateful for your

support and promise to remember you in our prayers.

May God bless you all.



Some of our prayers are prayed together, with both major and minor seminarians.

The biggest change this year is that we have three religious in the major seminary here, attending their own classes. They help a lot with cooking,

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



There are now six religious Priests and Brothers here at the City of Mary.



Everyone takes a turn in helping to prepare the meals.



Father Philip offers Mass surrounded by the majesty of God's creation.



The boys pose for a group photo with the priests and seminarians on the last day of this year's Camp Saint Joseph.



Swimming and canoeing at Lake Pend Oreille is always a big hit at Boys Camp.



The Water Balloon Toss is one of many competitions at the annual Boys Camp.



Some seminarians eat their lunch outside, when the weather is good.

An Inspiring Saint for this Month

by Joseph Strain, gr. 12

Isaac Jogues was born on January 10, 1607. As he was growing up, he was eager to enter the Society of Jesus and travel to the New World to spread the faith and to become a martyr. And so he was determined to become whatever his heart and God most desired. And so, at the age of 10, he began to attend Jesuit schools.

On October 24, 1626, Isaac Jogues pronounced his first vows in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Before his ordination, a priest seeking missionary recruits for New France came to the seminary where Isaac was staying. He was chosen along with a few of his friends for the mission. And so when he was ordained in 1636, he traveled home, not only to celebrate his first Mass with his family, but to bid farewell to his family before setting out on his new mission in life. Isaac Jogues arrived with his companions in the New World on June 2, 1636.

Two days later they sailed 120 miles to Quebec. It happened that on July 21st, Fr. Jogues made haste to prepare to leave Quebec and present himself at Three Rivers to help in the mission of teaching the Huron nations. Many of the Hurons listened to the teachings of the Church, and some of them became the new companions of Fr. Jogues on his missions.

On one of the return journeys to Three Rivers, he and his votaries were ambushed by the Mohawks. The tortures of Fr. Jogues were in no way merciful; his tortures included the cutting off of his left thumb with a shell, and the Indians biting at his fingernails and ripping them out.

After living some time among the Mohawks, he encountered some Dutch while traveling with Mohawk warriors. The Dutch offered him a chance of escape; and after some prayer and meditation, Isaac Jogues accepted their offer as the will of God. His escape was successful after the first unsuccessful attempt.

Fr. Jogues returned home in time to celebrate Christmas with his family. But he yearned once again to return to the New World and continue his mission. After he had received a dispensation from Pope Urban XIII, he gathered supplies and set out again for his mission.

A treaty was made with the Mohawks when Fr. Isaac Jogues had returned; but he soon discovered that the Mohawks had no intention of keeping the treaty, and he was once again captured by them. He was led one night by a friend to a hut where he was told there was someone dying. But he was misled and was struck twice with a tomahawk. His soul then went forth to its eternal reward. It was October 18, 1646. St. Isaac Jogues was martyred when he was only 39 years old.

The Heavenly Mother of Seminarians

You are all no doubt aware by now that His Excellency, Bishop Pivarunas, made a significant change in assignments this summer. He decided to move our major seminary for religious from Colorado to the City of Mary here in Idaho. At this point there are only three religious in the major seminary, but their numbers will no doubt grow, given the increase of postulants this year. We are already planning for this future growth. For now, however, we are able to house these religious in a separate part of this building. Their own quarters are now referred to as Saint Louis Marie de Montfort Seminary.

Having these older seminarians around is a great boon for our minor seminary. In addition to all their help, we will now be able to have Solemn High Masses, much more often than in the past. For such a Mass we need a priest, a deacon and a subdeacon. The latter two positions can be filled by priests. In our circumstances, we have in residence here two priests and one subdeacon. The priests will take turns being celebrant and deacon, while Frater Mary Aloysius will have plenty of opportunity to fulfill the role of subdeacon for Solemn Mass.

The first major feast of Our Lady during the course of the school year is her nativity on September 8th, so that will be the date of our first Solemn Mass. As you know, we also prepare for this great feastday with a novena, and many of you have submitted intentions to be remembered in this novena. Likewise, we celebrate all of Our Lady's feastdays with some special observances.

Among other devotions, every seminarian must develop a great love and tender devotion to our heavenly Mother. We can readily imagine how greatly she is interested in the spiritual well-being of priests, who have the high honor of offering holy Mass—calling her Son down upon the altar and distributing His body and blood in Holy Communion. She no doubt has a tender regard for seminarians and priests and will gladly assist them with her graces if they but invoke her.

It is, therefore, quite appropriate that we have as our patrons: Saint Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, patron of our minor seminary, and St. Louis Marie de Montfort, a great lover of Our Blessed Mother and author of True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, as patron of our major seminary for religious. May these great patrons assist all our seminarians to become truly Marian seminarians, and, God-willing, one day Marian priests!

We thank you for your support of our seminary and hope that you enjoy reading our monthly newsletter. Please continue to remember in your daily prayers all our seminarians. Be assured that we pray daily for all our benefactors.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI