



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

January 2023

The main event of the past month was the ordination ceremony in Omaha. Two of our clerics advanced in Holy Orders: Frater M. Aloysius (deacon) and Frater Alphonsus M. (last two Minor Orders). Although we minor seminarians were not able to travel to Omaha for these ceremonies, we are very happy for our major seminarians as they advance toward the priesthood. It is a blessing for our minor seminary to have them around. (Their residence is next door to the

In mid-January we will reach the end of the First Semester. Already we are halfway through the school year! We also look forward to the annual visit of the bishop and priests to the seminary later this month.

Now, as we send this copy of our newsletter off to the printer, we are getting ready to leave on our Christmas vacation. Here at the seminary we are blessed with about three weeks of vacation, instead of the normal two weeks that most schools have. Some of the seminarians live

here in Idaho or Washington, but the rest of us travel by plane or train to visit our families for Christmas.

When we return well-rested, we will have our customary blessing of Epiphany Water and the High Mass for the feast. We also have our annual gift-

giving at the seminary. We hope that you will all enjoy a wonderful Christmas season and that God will bless you in the New Year of 2023

A Gift For the Gift

by David Stone, gr. 11

Every good gift given deserves a gift in return. Our Lord who is the greatest gift deserves a gift in return. Surely our gift will never measure up to His gift, but we must give back just like the three kings. The three kings weren't necessarily kings;



Twice a week the seminarians have a typing class with the secretary Mrs. Salgado.

minor seminary.)

Another highlight of December was the amount of snow! We received about three feet of snow, beginning on the feast of Saint Andrew. Needless to say, snow makes for sledding fun, although we also have to shovel it. We are especially looking forward to skiing after Christmas.

During Advent we sang Vespers each Sunday from the Divine Office. It wasn't too difficult, once we got the hang of it. We will also be chanting Sunday Vespers during Lent.

January Calendar

- 4 – Classes resume at the normal times
- 5 – Blessing of Epiphany water
- 6 – Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord; High Mass
- 18 – Begin Church Unity Octave
- 19 – Final day of the Second Quarter
- 23 – Third Quarter begins
- 25 – Bishop and Priests visit the seminary
- 27 – Ski Day

they were wise men who studied the stars. Their first gift was gold to signify Our Lord as the King of kings. The frankincense was a gift that signified Our Lord as the high priest. And finally the myrrh prefigured His death since it is used to anoint the dead.

January 6th on the pagan calendar was a day of celebration for the Romans, because Caesar Augustus had a triple victory on that day. So, to replace that pagan celebration Holy Mother the Church made it a day when Our Lord manifested Himself three different times on that day. The first was on Epiphany when Our Lord manifested Himself to the three wise men. The second time was at His baptism, when Christ was manifested by God the Father to the people with the words "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." This was

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

A Gift For the Gift

believed to have occurred on the same day as the Epiphany but it is commemorated on the 13th, the octave of the Epiphany. The third manifestation was at the marriage feast at Cana, Our Lord's his first public miracle, when He changed water into wine. This was also believed to have occurred on the sixth of January but is commemorated on the Second Sunday after Epiphany.

Many Catholics celebrate this feast like a second Christmas, by giving gifts, like the Krist Kindl custom. Also, on this feast some people bake cupcakes with three of them having beans in the middle symbolizing the three gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

On this feast, as we receive gifts, let us not forget to give a gift back to the King of kings who manifested himself three times on this day. Let us give back to show our gratitude for His gifts.

Teenagers in Winter

by Arlin Wertish, gr. 11

This year, unlike many years, we've got a bucket load of snow! This entails lots of fun, such as wrestling and sledding.

We have spent many an evening in night sledding. With the hills we've got it is a lot of fun. When you're not face planting in the snow you're taking massive jumps that make you soar through the air and land with a puff in the snow. Sometimes sledding solo can get a little repetitive, so we change up the game by forming a train. We all get into single file and hang on to each other as we all sled down the hill. It usually ends up as a pile of sore bodies at the bottom of the hill.

When we get a little antsy and bored of sledding we begin wrestling. This usually ends up with the game of king of the hill. This entails tackling people and even a game of rock, paper, and scissors to decide who goes down the hill when you are tired. We have even come up with a game to combine wrestling and sledding. Two people slide down the hill while trying to knock each other off and get to the bottom first. Sometimes you literally end up running each other over.

Unfortunately, snow also brings the terrible, painful fact of life – work. But it usually makes work just a little bit better. It is common to be shoveling and to get hit with the random snowball. This usually follows with a chase down and a snow wash.

Just recently, I had to get up onto the 8-foot roof of the work shop and shovel off all of the snow. The snow was about thigh deep and was packed down so it was a time-consuming job. But it was fun jumping off the roof into the snow. Maybe I should mention that Henry helped me a little bit with the roof. Just a little bit.

So life is going pretty much the same as usual here. Tons of homework with lots of fun in between.

My Experience At The Seminary

by Benjamin Shedenhelm, gr. 8

When I got to the seminary the first thing I did was to help clean the house, which I didn't do much since I wasn't there earlier. Later, during our free time we did some fun games. After that first day of fun, the routine of schoolwork began. And except for P.E., no one really likes to do schoolwork.

Even though this is my first year here at the seminary, it isn't the same without my siblings – mainly because they would probably ask me to do something with them when I am reading a book that I really like and don't want to be interrupted. Or when I am doing my homework and they won't stop bugging me, even when I ask them to stop. If they do stop and go away they would probably come back to me and annoy me again. But when you're at the seminary you start to miss the annoyance, and when you're back at home, you don't miss it anymore.

On the weekends we usually go down to the gym and play basketball or dodge-ball. We play dodge-ball most of the time, but the twins would rather play football or basketball. The days that I appreciate the most are when Fr. Philip comes for a visit. Because Fr. Philip can make the games more interesting or even make a new game based off other games. And it gets to where it takes longer to make up new games, so that we don't overplay the games that we already have played.

Have a Merry Christmas, and God bless you.



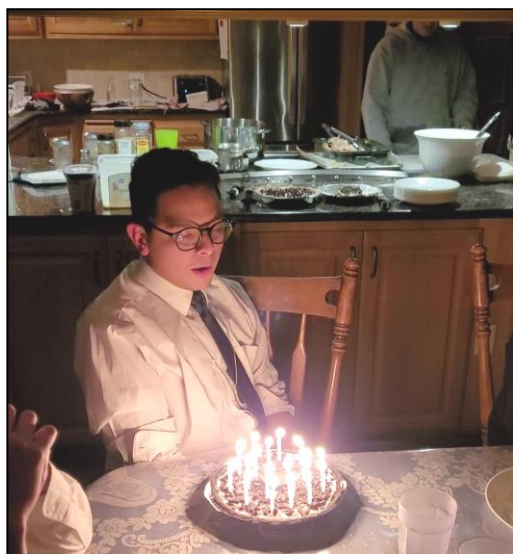
Frater Mary Aloysius receives the imposition of the bishop's hand – the matter of the sacrament of holy orders for the diaconate



Saint Nicholas visits our young children each year at his feast!



A winter scene looking toward the gym building from the church.



Jorge turned 18 this past month.



The heavy snowstorm at our last funeral did not deter us from completing the ceremonies.



The seminarians are all involved, either singing or serving, when we have a funeral.



Despite the snow, the local power company replaced our aging power pole that supplies electricity to the seminary.

Time to Rest

You can well imagine how teenage boys who have been away from home for four months look forward to the Christmas vacation! They look forward to being with their families and not having classes to attend or schoolwork to fulfill. Well, it may be different for us teachers, but the appreciation of vacation is the same. For us, it is a time for rest and recuperation, to replenish our energies that have been taxed by the demands of operating the minor seminary.

The most important part of that necessary R&R is the spiritual part. We religious will use the opportunity to spend more time in quiet reading and recollection. We will also make our monthly retreat toward the end of December.

Canon Law requires all religious to make a retreat of at least three full days once a year. We customarily do this annually in June. In addition, our Rule requires us to spend one day a month in a sort of mini-retreat. Usually, this means only part of the day; nevertheless, it is time well-spent.

The practice of a monthly day of retreat was strongly recommended to all priests by Pope Pius XI in his encyclical on the priesthood (*Ad Catholici Sacerdotii*) of 1935: "You should enter into retreat more often and for longer periods, as far as possible to you, and you should consecrate, in addition, a day of each month to more fervent prayer and greater recollection, according to the practice of priests of great zeal." Consequently, our little community of religious here in northern Idaho will take advantage of the quiet at the seminary for added recollection, prayer and reading.

As we close out the year of 2022, I want to especially thank you for your donations of the past year, without which we could not maintain the operation of our seminary. Since most of our seminarians come from large families, it is necessary to keep our tuition costs down, and that means that we must have outside financial support. This is especially the case now with the addition of the clerics here, and given the fact that food and everything else is more expensive recently due to inflation. No doubt you have also been feeling the pinch that we have lately experienced. Yet I must humbly ask that you continue to support our seminary throughout the coming year and for as long as God allows us to operate this seminary.

You can be assured of a grateful remembrance in our prayers and, doubtless, the blessings of God for supporting the work of training future priests. And may God grant you and your loved ones all the blessings of His grace, through the loving hands of Mary, in the New Year of 2023.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI



Frater Alphonsus Maria received the minor orders of exorcist and acolyte on December 12th.



It's all hands on deck when we put out the Guardian mailing.

The Guardian is published monthly for the enjoyment of our benefactors and for the family members of our seminarians. This Newsletter is free upon request.

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