



# THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

June 2023

**O**ur month of May has been a whirlwind of activity. On May 8<sup>th</sup> we had a field trip to Lewiston, Idaho, with several stops along the way. That same week the seniors left for Omaha to attend the ordination ceremony, which included one of our major seminarians from here.

We began the following week with daily Rogation processions. Monday and Wednesday went according to plan, but on Tuesday it rained. Despite the steady drizzle we completed the procession. On Ascension Thursday, with beautiful weather, we went on an outing to a local state park for the day.

This week we will have our annual camping trip here in northern Idaho. Then, on Pentecost Sunday, there will be a solemn High Mass offered by Father Aloysius. That will lead us into our final week of school.

It has been an amazing year, and we are all looking forward to a great summer. We thank you for sharing our experiences by reading our articles. We hope you have enjoyed our efforts. Please continue to pray for our seminary, and may you all have a wonderful summer!

## A Long-awaited Trip

by Joseph Strain, gr. 12

**A**fter four wonderful years here at St. Joseph Seminary, the time has come for me to say farewell in one last article for *The Guardian*. What was the one trip that I have been waiting for during the past four years? It was a trip to Omaha for Ordinations.

In the fall of 2019, my freshman year, there were nine seminarians here. Because of the numbers, the expenses for all of us to travel to

Omaha that year for Ordinations would have been a little high. And it has been the same for the past four years. There were twelve seminarians my sophomore year, eleven my junior year, and again twelve for my senior year. But in addition to the twelve minor seminarians here, there are the three religious major seminarians.

## June Calendar

- 2 – Last day of school; Marcel's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday
- 3 – Senior graduation; confirmation; ordination to the subdiaconate
- 11 – Corpus Christi procession
- 20-22 – Religious retreat at the seminary
- 27-28 – Vows ceremonies

This year Fr. Benedict gave William and me the option of going to Omaha for Ordinations as a sort of second senior trip, since we had already gone with last year's seniors on their trip to Europe. William, George and I, along with two other privileged persons, jumped at the opportunity of traveling to Omaha for a week to witness those wonderful ceremonies.

We all sang for most of the ceremonies, and two of us were able to serve during the Mass for tonsure and minor orders. We all met some family, friends, and even made new friends while we were down there. It was kind of sad for us to have to leave early Saturday morning, May 13<sup>th</sup>, to return here to the seminary to finish school.

And that was it. I was finally able to attend a Mass of Ordinations to the Priesthood. It was a great feeling of joy to realize that in my presence there stood five newly ordained men to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and give blessings to the faithful.

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*The school children and parishioners follows the clergy and seminarians, while all chant the Litany of the Saints in procession.*

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## A Long-awaited Trip

Now the time has come for me to say a last farewell to all of you readers. During the past four years I have learned and experienced many things, such as cooking, milking, and helping to maintain a beautiful piece of property that this seminary stands on. I am proud to graduate from St. Joseph Seminary, I am glad to have made new friends the past four years, and I am especially happy that I was able to travel with some of my friends to Europe before some of them went to join the Major Seminary.

Thank you for your support, and thank you all especially for your prayers.

## Of Apples and Racing

*by William Davis, gr. 12*

A personal tragedy has occurred to me: this is the last *Guardian* article I will be able to write, for I am leaving this land of milk and honey. But after a second thought, this is not a tragedy – far from it. In these past five years, I could not have asked for a better place to be. This Minor Seminary will forever be an indelible mark upon my memory. No matter how hard times for me will get, I can always look back in fond remembrance of my time spent here.

St Joseph Minor Seminary is the perfect place to foster a vocation. But even if it is not God's will that you become a priest, you could never ask for a better place to become a strong Catholic man than the City of Mary. The Minor Seminary offers all the best that you can ask for, but it is for you to take it and make something out of it.

This year I complete my fifth year here, and I am much more matured than when I first entered these hallowed

hills. Our establishment in Rathdrum, Idaho, however, can only be as good as the students make it. You have to want to gain something out of your stay here in order to get it. It is like the Minor Seminary is an apple tree, weighed down by sweet fruit; but you cannot just gaze at the tree in order to get the fruit, you must climb the tree in order to receive the succulent reward. We have to run to gain an imperishable crown, but if we prepare for the race by working out and going to the gym and strengthening our muscles, the race will not be nearly so hard and daunting.

The Minor Seminary is my laden apple tree, my preparation for the race. I could never have dreamed of a sweeter earthly fruit than that which the City of Mary has to offer. I could not hope to have had a better trainer than Father Benedict and all the other teachers. It is my true belief that anyone who goes through the Minor Seminary with the intense desire to better himself, will never fail.

Devotions and good behavior are cherished here like no other high school on this planet, and I have never been, and probably will never be, more fortunate than when it was decided that I would come up here to Northern Idaho. I have made so many friends, fellow apple hunters and fellow runners in the Great Race, and I will cherish them always, and will always be there for them, knowing that they will be there for me.

I leave the beautiful mountains and trees of Idaho behind me with a heavy heart, knowing that life will never be as good as when I was there, but also with the knowledge that my five long, happy years spent here will keep me strengthened in the times ahead. Be it the life of a priest or lay-man, St Joseph Minor Seminary in the City of Mary will prepare you for all the tribulations ahead. What are you waiting for? Come and get some apples; prepare for the race.

## A Love Without End

*by David Stone, gr. 11*

Without end – that is how long God will love us by the love to which we are indebted. Without the love in His heart we all surely would be damned. Let us now reflect on this heart of His which is full of love for us.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus holds love unutterable. This sacred heart of Jesus is always depicted with a flame, with the cross on top and the crown of thorns around it. Why is this? The flame represents His love. The flame can never be quenched. Why the cross and the crown of thorns? These are mementos of the Passion, which is God's love for us spelled out. It is because of this love that He died on the cross for us. It would have been enough for Jesus to prick His finger, or even only think of our redemption, but to



*William's topic for his senior project was the First Crusade.*

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*Round Lake was a perfect place for a seminary outing on Ascension Thursday*



*During May we had a daily crowning of Our Lady's statue.*



*Whether the seminarians like it or not, P.E. period begins with calisthenics.*



*After the ordination our newly-ordained Father Aloysius poses with his fellow religious clerics*



*The Rogation procession begins in the church with the chanting of the antiphon Exsurge.*



*Joseph points to one of his slides as he presents his senior project.*



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## A Love Without End

show just how much He loves us He shed every last drop of blood from His Sacred Heart.

How much do you love Him back? What kind of devotion do you have for the Sacred Heart of Jesus? So many people in the world are no better than the Romans, mocking Him with their sins. This is why the crown of thorns is depicted. It is depicted because by our sins we afflict him as the Romans did with their mocking remarks.

What will we do to make reparation for our sins, which are an insult to the heart of our Creator? I'll tell you: you need to grow in your devotion to the Sacred Heart. Through this devotion we shall grow in our love for God, which will breed adoration. This is what He deserves. Our love for Him must be the same as His love for us: a love without end.



*After his first Solemn Mass  
Father Aloysius poses with the clergy  
and seminarians who served the Mass.*



*On a recent outing we stopped at a beautiful old church  
that has been almost entirely untouched by the modernists.*

## With Deep Gratitude

Another year, our twenty-fourth here, comes to an end. How many more years will we be able to maintain this minor seminary? Only God knows, but we are fully

determined to continue this work as long as it is possible.

At this time of each passing year the thought that is uppermost in my mind is that of gratitude, first and foremost to Almighty God. It is only through His goodness and providence that we are able to continue this work. Of course, we also owe a deep debt of gratitude to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and that of her most chaste spouse Saint Joseph, our seminary patron. No doubt, Mary and Joseph are keenly interested in the formation of future priests.

Then there is gratitude to all our staff members at the seminary, both over the past year and in previous years.

Without the dedicated assistance of so many fine teachers and other staff members, the work of the seminary would not be possible. Finally, but not by any means least, there are all the supporters who aid this work by their prayers and financial support. To all of you, I am profoundly grateful. May God reward you here and in eternity, and may He send many more pious young men to join our minor seminary!

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*

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