



# THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

September 2023

**W**ell, we are back for another year at Saint Joseph Seminary. This year we once again have 12 seminarians, representing Arizona, Idaho, Kentucky, Minnesota, New York, Texas, Utah and Washington. After our opening orientation last weekend, we got settled in and began to learn the routine. Before long, however, we were off to Lake Coeur d'Alene for a few days of recreation and camaraderie before we buckle down to our studies.

Now we are all back at the seminary, beginning our studies for

Some will milk the cow or help prepare meals. There are also seminarians assigned as sacristans or to do other jobs. Given the number of us here (3 priests, two clerics, one lay brother, and 12 minor seminarians) there are plenty of hands to help with the work to be done, so the burden does not fall on any one individual's shoulders. We all work together to keep the seminary running smoothly. And, with studies, chores, prayers and recreation, there isn't time to be bored here!

We also count on your prayers for a successful school year. We appreciate

## September Calendar

- 4 – Labor Day outing
- 5 – Our secretary's birthday
- 8 – Feast of Our Lady's nativity; Solemn High Mass
- 12 – Most Holy Name of Mary; chanted Vespers of Our Lady
- 24 – Feast of Our Lady of Ransom; chanted Vespers
- 26 – David's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday
- 27 – Mid-quarter
- 29 – Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel



*Our annual Boys Camp concluded with the usual group photo, including all the boys and counselors.*

the new school year. We have Latin, theology, math, English, science, government, choir and P.E. The curriculum will certainly keep us busy with our studies.

We also have chores every day, which change with each quarter.

that you read our newsletter, and we enjoy keeping you up to date on what is happening here. With that said, we expect to have a great school year. We promise also to pray for you, our benefactors.

## The World's Greatest Power

*by Marcel Mansfield, gr. 11*

**W**hat is the greatest power in the world? Some people might say money, others may say that the greatest power is an atomic weapon, or some sort of governmental superiority. Those are just worldly powers that can only have power in this world. We as Catholics know, however, that the greatest power in the world is the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

The Mass is the single most pleasing thing to God and is the same sacrifice as Our Lord's death on the cross, yet it is offered in an unbloody manner. It is a wonderful thing for people to come

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## The World's Greatest Power

under one roof and receive the many graces and benefits for attending this holy sacrifice devoutly. Being a minor seminarian from Utah, I can say it is hard not having the opportunity to attend this holy sacrifice every week. My family and I were very happy that both Father Gregory and Father Benedict could come down and offer the Mass in our home this summer.

I'm very happy to say that this is going to be my second year attending Saint Joseph Minor Seminary. I'm incredibly lucky to live at a place where I can attend the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass daily. In the past year I have learned so much by living here at the minor seminary, and I hope to continue to learn and grow this year. It's sad to see the older seminarians graduate, knowing they won't be back the next year. Nevertheless, it's exciting to see new faces and getting to know the new students. It's strange to think how different this year will be, but I'm excited to see what it has in store.



*The boys are back, here pictured at breakfast on the first full day of the new school year.*

years, how everyone gets to know each other. It is rather funny, actually, how at the beginning of every year, everyone feels like a stranger, so to speak, to the new ones. Then, not too much later, it seems as though we have known each other our entire lives! We look back at the beginning of the year and think how crazy it was that we

were once strangers! Once we know each other, we know each other for life. That is one very interesting and amazing aspect of being here for several years at the minor seminary. I have been able to make good, new Catholic friends that I

would otherwise have not been able to make.

So with this being my last year, I will cherish the opportunities I have had to make new friends, and at the same time thank God for all He has done for me. As I continue my life after graduation, I will be eternally grateful for the good experiences I have had here, both physically and spiritually.

## What a Senior Sees

*by Jonathan Lehn, gr. 12*

How time flies! It seems only yesterday when the school year was over; yet once again, another year has begun – for me, my last year – at Saint Joseph Minor Seminary. I can hardly believe this is my fourth and final year here, being a senior. The past years have been a good experience for me and I have learned more things here than I would have anywhere else. God has been extremely good to me (as always) and I have much to be grateful for, as we all do.

This year at the seminary, there are four new minor seminarians. As I did last year, I will get to know them very well, and we will become good friends. In only a few hours (as of writing this article) all of us seminarians will be going to a lake house on Lake Couer d'Alene for a few days. During this outing we get to know each other and make strong bonds of friendship, especially for the new seminarians. It is a very good opportunity for them to fit in, as it were, and make them feel part of the rest of us, who have been here for more than a year.

Since I have been here the longest of all the seminarians who are currently here, I have seen throughout these past



*The seminarians had a great time at the lake, playing catch while jumping off the diving board.*





*Some of the boys enjoyed practicing flips off the diving board.*



*The weather was perfect for swimming and other water sports.*



*Tubing was a popular activity during the outing to Lake Coeur d'Alene.*



*The more daring seminarians used the high-dive platform*



## A Family of Brothers

One of the great benefits of a minor seminary is the bond of friendship that unites the seminarians. After creating Adam God said, “It is not good for man to be alone.” We all need the support and encouragement of fellow Catholics, as we strive to persevere in the face of a world that is largely opposed to what we believe.

In order to foster this bond of unity among the seminarians, we usually begin each school year with an outing of 2 or 3 days to Lake Coeur d’Alene.

They have Mass each morning and common prayers... and a lot of fun. There are the various water sports of swimming, tubing, canoeing, etc., as well as various inside games.

While it may seem to be out of place in a seminary, I believe that such an outing is an integral part of the formation we are striving to impart. The seminary formation is not just spiritual, and not just academic—it is forming the whole man, his character, habits and outlook on life. Part of that is the “fun” opportunities that the boys have.

Needless to say, we have boys of all backgrounds and temperaments. Some are more athletic and inclined to sports; others are bookworms; others still prefer to be outside and work with their hands. All of them, however, must live and work and study together. They need to learn to get along well with one another and to

bear with one another’s faults and failings — to truly become spiritual brothers. It is my experience that the boys

who go through our minor seminary retain a lifelong bond of friendship that will be of great service to them in their future life. What better friends could anyone have, than those who share the same faith and values?

As we embark on our 25<sup>th</sup> year here at Saint Joseph Seminary, we count on the intercession of Our Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph—and on your prayers! Every day we pray for our benefactors. On behalf of all our seminarians and religious, I thank you for your interest, prayers and support. May God reward you abundantly!

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*



*Brother Thomas has been removing trees in preparation for a retaining wall by the side of the church.*



*As usual, we had our outdoor Rosary procession on the 13<sup>th</sup> of last month.*

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